SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

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SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE

MONDAY, MAY 14, 1984

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL,
Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in the PGA Holiday Inn, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman presiding.

Present: Representatives Benjamin A. Gilman and Tom Lewis.

Staff present: John T. Cusack, chief of staff; Elliott A. Brown, minority staff director; George Gilbert, counsel; Karen Watson, press officer; John Stunson and Deborah Feldman, staff of Congressman Clay Shaw; Moya D. Benoit, staff of Congressman Mario Biaggi; David Goodlett, district representative; Gale Tyndall, office manager; Ken McKinnon, press secretary; Ann Decker; Bob Pinchuk, caseworker; and Lynda Elliott, legislative director, staff of Congressman Lewis.

Mr. GILMAN. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

May we ask that you please take your seats so we can get underway.

The Select Committee on Narcotics commences its morning agenda for the South Florida Law Enforcement Conference. We are pleased to be hosted today by Congressman Tom Lewis, one of the most respected members of our committee.

I have asked Tom if he would make some opening remarks for us.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Mr. Gilman.

Good morning and welcome. Before I make an opening statement, I would like to thank Mr. John Acertida for the use of this fine room here at the Holiday Inn, and Mrs. Eileen McKee with the hotel for her generous assistance to my staff in making the preparations for this conference.

I also want to thank Mr. Jay Cruse of Barnett Bank for providing the coffee and donuts this morning; also, the volunteers from the Palm Beach Gardens Chamber of Commerce at the registration table.

What we would also like to point out is that we will be recessing at 11:45 in order to be seated in the dining room ahead of any regular lunch crowd, and the restaurant will accommodate us. To make matters simpler, the chef will guarantee quicker service, and there will be several choices on the menu that will be quickly prepared for you if you care to have lunch here.

On behalf of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control of the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to welcome you all here to today's conference on drug law enforcement.

This is a landmark hearing. This is the first time the select committee has brought together State law enforcement, south Florida county and local law enforcement, and representatives of the South Florida Task Force to discuss openly and constructively ways to improve both communication and coordination of effort in drug interdiction.

The committee learned last October that there is a serious lack of cooperation between the Feds and locals. This problem was again highlighted at a followup hearing held in Washington, DC, last month.

As a result, the committee surveyed county and local law enforcement officials to assess their specific needs and concerns. And today, we plan to discuss these issues and then develop some positive steps for better communication and coordination between all levels of law enforcement.

It would have been nice if the members of the select committee could have been privy to the DEA Administrator's true feelings about the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System when we are setting up these law enforcement conferences to improve communication among drug enforcement agencies.

Nevertheless, Mr. Mullen's statements provide even more legitimacy to the need for representatives of all the State, local, and Federal law enforcement agencies involvement in drug enforcement to forge cooperative working arrangements.

That is what we have brought all the local law enforcement officials in south Florida together to do and I hope the representatives of the Federal agencies will now join in this open discussion and help us improve the entire drug enforcement system.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind that south Florida is a gateway for drug smugglers from South and Central America. There is no doubt the flow of drugs through these countries will continue to move through Florida if a lack of interagency cooperation persists. Therefore, unless we can develop an effective strategy with your input, the fight against drug smuggling will continue to remain a series of individual battles fought independently without the benefit of shared intelligence, shared resources, and enforcement assistance.

Your participation in this conference is key.

This is your opportunity to let the committee, your colleagues, and the task force know your immediate concerns.

Our intent is to provide you with the proper forum for a frank discussion of these problems.

It is important to the effectiveness and success of an overall drug interdiction program in south Florida that we all develop better working relationships with each other, but this is particularly true for those of you on the front lines.

We are all on the same team, fighting the same problem. Therefore, today, let's be fair in our assessment of the problem, and let's develop some workable recommendations to ensure south Florida's drug interdiction program is a success at all levels of law enforcement.

I regret that the chairman, Charles Rangel, who had personally requested we hold this hearing, cannot be with us today. He is a strong and effective leader of this committee, and I am sure he will want to review closely the findings and recommendations we issue here today.

This is the model hearing for several others on the same subject to be held throughout the country.

It is also unfortunate more representatives from south Florida could not join us to hear your concerns, but we will make the results of this conference available to them.

We welcome you gentlemen to south Florida and invite you to make some opening remarks.

[Mr. Lewis opening statement appears on p. 72.]

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

I want to thank Congressman Lewis again for arranging our meeting today and for his staff in helping to prepare for this conference.

It is a pleasure for our committee to return to West Palm Beach with our colleague, Mr. Lewis, to continue the efforts of the Narcotics Select Committee toward reducing the supply of illicit narcotics entering this part of the Nation.

Last October, as you may recall, our select committee came down to south Florida to assess the effectiveness of the Vice President's task force, which had been established in March 1983. We learned then that while the task force had achieved some notable accomplishments in stemming the flow of narcotics into the Southeastern United States, there was little communication and coordination between the Federal task force and State and local enforcement officials. In our view, if the war on drugs is to succeed, then the three C's—communication, cooperation, and coordination—are going to have to be established. They are going to have to be the cornerstone of any effective drug law enforcement program.

On April 10 of this year, the select committee, in following up on its 1983 hearings in California and Florida, Texas, and New York, again focused attention on the problems of Federal, State, and local law enforcement relations, and what if any progress had been made during the past year.

We received testimony from State and local law enforcement officials whom we had spoken to in our 1983 field hearings. It was disappointing to learn that the level of communication, cooperation, and coordination had not increased in almost a year.

Today, our select committee returns to south Florida, not to receive testimony, but to work with you, to listen. Florida's dedicated State and local law enforcement officials are in this room with us. We want to learn from you how communication, cooperation, and coordination can best be developed and implemented. And we hope you are going to advance your best thinking for us. We hope to learn not only what the Federal task force can do to improve upon a successful drug strategy, but also what steps can be taken by State and local law enforcement officials to help us achieve these goals.

In that regard, communication, cooperation, and coordination represent a two-way street of mutual responsibility to arrest, to prosecute, and convict drug traffickers.

This conference has been designed to allow us to talk freely and to offer constructive suggestions that we can agree upon before the end of the day.

With us today are our staff director, Jack Cusack, and our minority staff director, Elliott Brown, and some of our other staff personnel who you will come to know during the course of the hearing.

Also with us today are staff representatives of Congressman Clay Shaw, the 15th District of Florida, John Stunson and Debbie Feldman from his Washington office; and Congressman Mario Biaggi of New York is represented by Moya Benoit.

I am confident our efforts are going to be successful. I look forward to a productive session. It will be just as productive as all of us are willing to make it by digging in and coming up with some worthwhile ideas.

Narcotics trafficking and drug abuse is continuing in epidemic proportions in our Nation, both here and abroad. And unless we work together to try to find ways of curbing this deadly menace, our political, our social and economic institutions are going to continue to be undermined in the sordid business activity of drug traffickers who will continue to bring misery to citizens throughout our Nation and, yes, throughout the world.

So without further ado, I am going to turn our first discussion over to our host, Congressman Lewis, and ask him if he would get into conference discussion number one.

[Mr. Gilman's opening statement appears on p. 73.]

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Mr. Gilman.

I would like to point out also some of my staff that are here that did work very hard to set this conference up: David Goodlett, district liaison; Miss Gale Tyndall; Ken McKinnon; and also Ann Decker; Bob Pinchuk; and also with me from Washington is a gal that works with the committee very closely, Miss Lynda Elliott.

What I would like to do to start off the first conference discussion, "Roles and Relationship of Federal, State and Local Enforcement Agencies in Narcotic Enforcement in South Florida," and our local sheriff, the highest elected office in Palm Beach, Sheriff Dick Wille, if you would please address the panel.

Mr. WILLE. Good morning, gentlemen, ladies. It is nice to be here with you this morning.

Mr. LEWIS. Dick, if you would speak your name and also your title, and I would ask each of you gentlemen to do likewise when you speak for the reporter, please.

Mr. WILLE. Richard Wille, I am the sheriff of Palm Beach County.

Mr. LEWIS. Sheriff, throughout the hearings that this committee has held, we have found a number of what appears to be concerns among local law enforcement agency—sheriffs, police chiefs, people on the beat—as to the lack of information or no information from the Federal South Florida Task Force, or from the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System and others. We would like to know just how this affects you in your department, or if it does.

Mr. WILLE. Well, it does affect us. And it is true. In our department, we have 32 narcotics agents that work full time in this area. My conversation with them on a continual basis is that there is still no liaison work at all between the South Florida Task Force or

the Interdiction Bureau that is down here. However, as far as the local DEA and the customs is concerned, they work with us on a continual basis, both exchange of information and their interest in keeping us advised of anything that might assist us and vice versa. And I think communication is one way, breach communication is the other. And it has never been established with the people that have come down here with the task force, it is on an individual basis or on a bureau basis, and I think that is detrimental to us and to their efficiency.

Mr. LEWIS. Do you feel that there is a great lack of sharing intelligence information back and forth between the agencies?

Mr. WILLE. As far as the special agencies that have been set up down here, yes. As far as local agencies, we have learned over the last several years that interaction and cooperation is the only way to exist, that we cannot be islands unto ourselves. That if we don't exchange information, none of us are going to be too successful. And I guess that with that doubt in mind, that the people that are living here, the local agents, either DEA or cities, or counties, that we are used to dealing with one another on a day-to-day basis.

However, people that come down on a special assignment such as this, for some reason or other, don't seem to want our input or vice versa. They don't want to give us any input as to what is going on.

Mr. LEWIS. Do you feel that there could be a possibility of dividing responsibilities between the Federal and local law enforcements?

Mr. WILLE. Well, yes. I think that the Federal Interdiction and the South Florida Task Force—and have always felt—that their primary responsibility was the major importation into the country on the borders and so forth, and gathering intelligence to prevent that, where we have little input as far as their network of intelligence is concerned. But I also know that as a result of their intelligence, they have to develop a lot of intelligence that would assist us locally.

It just does not seem possible to me that the people that they are working with on a day-to-day basis to accomplish their tasks, that they are not getting a lot of good intelligence that would assist us on a local basis as far as the buying and selling of narcotics is concerned. And to not have any contact in months with agencies that should have that type of intelligence shows me that there is no communication going back and forth.

Mr. LEWIS. Do you feel that if there were a committee or a group of south Florida local law enforcement agents established with, say, representatives of some of the sheriffs' offices, as well as some of the cities, the police chiefs, or other local law enforcement to meet on a regular basis with the Federal members of the task force and in business this might alleviate this situation or at least help it?

Mr. WILLE. I think that it would help the situation a lot. Also, it would stimulate some trust and understanding among the agents by merely talking together. I have always found if people sit down and talk, they find out they have a lot in common. If they never talk, they can mistrust each other from now until the end. And that is probably what has happened is that through lack of communications, nobody trusts anyone. They feel they are the only ones

that are going to be the salvation of the world as far as the narcotics, stemming of narcotics into the country is concerned.

Yes, I think that if local law enforcement had some input on a continual basis, representatives at least from the different agencies on the Federal level and from the local level, both sheriff and municipal officers that are working on this on a continual basis, that they would find that the exchange of information would be a lot freer and a lot more honest.

Mr. LEWIS. Do you feel that the priorities of the Federal task force includes the same priorities as the local law enforcement agencies?

Mr. WILLE. Well, I think the priority is in the size more or less of the shipments and so forth. I think the Federal agencies are more concerned with extremely large shipments, regular shipments coming in, either by ship or plane, the vehicles that we are using, the methods that we are using coming into the country. I think local is more concerned with the buying and selling on a local level, both large and small.

So I think that there is a little difference. But really, the end result is the same, that we are all supposed to be interested in exchanging information from the informants that we have and from the information we get to them, as to how it is getting into the country in large quantities, and how they can best assist us and vice versa. When it gets in here, they certainly have information they should be giving us. In my opinion, that would help us on the buying and selling on a local level.

Mr. LEWIS. I see.

Thank you, Sheriff Wille, for your assistance this morning. I know you may have to leave. I appreciate your taking the time.

Mr. WILLE. Thank you.

Mr. GILMAN. Sheriff, before you leave the mike, if you had the ability to make an important recommendation to the administration, what would be the most important recommendation that you would make to them at this time with regard to law enforcement?

Mr. WILLE. As far as the coordination is concerned, I believe that the best vehicle for setting up a cooperative effort would be through DEA. I think that they are going to be here for a long time; they live here, they have local interests, at least for the time that they are stationed in our area. My contacts with Mr. Mullen indicate that he is extremely conscientious as far as interaction between local and Federal agents is concerned. I don't believe I have ever met a Federal high-ranking officer that was so interested on a day-to-day basis, to make sure that the local and the Federal agents get together.

I think he should have more input as to the task force. I am sure then that we would all be getting together and sitting down around the table and finding out what was best as far as stopping the flow of narcotics into this country.

Mr. GILMAN. How would you classify your own input into the Federal thinking and Federal strategy?

Mr. WILLE. Well, I think that our input would be that it would open up the avenues of communications more if we were sitting down talking to one another on a continual basis.

Mr. GILMAN. When was the last time they conferred with you, any of the Federal people?

Mr. WILLE. DEA on a continual basis. In fact, I met with a committee out of DEA within the last month, including Mr. Mullen himself.

As far as the South Florida Task Force or the Border Interdiction, never.

Mr. GILMAN. Had you ever been consulted on general policy questions and strategy for this region?

Mr. WILLE. No. We went to an organizational meeting when they first came into the area 1½ or 2 years ago, whenever it was, and all the great things that were going to happen locally and federally on a cooperative basis, and since that time, I have never heard another word on a personal basis.

Mr. GILMAN. Have you sat down with any State officials and tried to plan strategy? Have you been consulted by any of them for an overall plan of how to best attack the narcotics problem in this area?

Mr. WILLE. No, we have not. Municipal, DEA, Customs, and other sheriffs' departments in other municipalities, yes. All others, no.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS. Do we have someone else who would like to comment at this point on some of the questions that were asked?

I guess what we would like to do, so we have a better idea of the cross section of people here, if we could start at this table and just go down and back and if you all just introduce yourselves and say where you are from and what your position is.

[The participants introduced themselves.]

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, gentlemen. That is a very good cross section.

I would like to just ask a general question, and have all of you respond as you would, please. What liaison have you set up with the Federal task force and NNBIS.

Has anyone on a local level set up a liaison between the Feds and their offices or has the Feds set up a liaison with your offices?

Would you like to respond, Admiral Thompson?

Admiral THOMPSON. Perhaps I would clarify a little bit what the intent of the Feds are, and I will put that in quotes.

The South Florida Task Force and NNBIS now, since last summer, have been liaisoning with State and local people through the established agents that were here. Sheriff Wille from Palm Beach, said nobody from the task force had shared any intelligence with him, or nobody from NNBIS had shared intelligence with him, but he was getting information and sharing information with the local DEA and local Customs.

Gentlemen, those agents are part of the South Florida Task Force and part of NNBIS. To the extent they are getting information from their local contacts with Federal agents, they are receiving what information we have available from the South Florida Task Force and NNBIS.

I would hope that clarifies a little bit.

Mr. LEWIS. Admiral, some of the local law enforcement officers would dispute that, I believe. They don't feel they are getting any information.

Admiral THOMPSON. I appreciate that, Mr. Congressman. That is why I am here to listen, to find out whether these conduits are working or not, as you are trying to find out how we can establish better communications.

There are 67 or 66 counterparts to Sheriff Wille just in the State of Florida.

Mr. LEWIS. That is true.

Mr. GILMAN. Admiral Thompson, are you saying, then, that all of the liaisoning is being done through the DEA to the local agents?

Admiral THOMPSON. No, sir, not through the DEA exclusively. Through the DEA, where the information that is gathered by the South Florida Task Force is passed through the DEA district office to their agencies. Essentially what is being developed and known in the intelligence center that we have in the South Florida Task Force and NNBIS is being shared with the Federal agents, and there is a responsibility then for them to work with their counterparts in the communities to pass that information along and to accept information.

The intelligence center that we have in the South Florida Task Force is growing, it is neophyte, it is nowhere near what we want it to be. We are bringing on board the Florida Department of Law Enforcement [FDLE]. Two agents are committed, two analysts, to be in our intelligence center to work with the State and local jurisdictions to improve on what is a very valid criticism, that we have not shared intelligence. We haven't had the conduit to do it in the past.

Mr. GILMAN. That is something for the future, then. You are about to appoint some liaison.

Admiral THOMPSON. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement has nominated, and two of their people are on board. We are waiting for their security clearances. Commissioner Dempsey of the FDLE from the State is meeting down in the NNBIS center. We are trying to capitalize on their connections with the local jurisdictions and the sheriffs to be able to pass that information on. We are just not capable of doing it from one place in the NNBIS or South Florida Task Force office.

Mr. GILMAN. Does the NNBIS south Florida office have some responsibility of oversight to make certain there is input by the local agencies and to make certain that the information is getting out to them?

Admiral THOMPSON. I think that is our charter. I can tell you we are not very satisfied with what we have been sending down, nor do we believe we have a very acceptable level of input coming out, and that is what we need to get better at.

Mr. GILMAN. Actually then, there is no direct input at this point until you get your liaison set up, is that right? It has to come through the various Federal agents into NNBIS?

Admiral THOMPSON. The intelligence that we are aware of and operating with in the South Florida Task Force and NNBIS comes—some come in from State and local jurisdictions, most from Federal agents. That includes the Federal intelligence community.

So that the information is massaged there, and it is spread back through the Federal agencies to the local jurisdictions. We are not trying to upset any relationship.

As Sheriff Wille described, he has a good working relationship with Customs and DEA. We are trying to use that conduit to pass information from the task force on down.

Mr. GILMAN. What I am trying to find out is if there are any quirks or problems in the system, how do you get to know about that unless you sit and meet and talk with these fellows along the way.

Admiral THOMPSON. Good point. I am just this morning privy to the questions you sent out. I wish I had a questionnaire like that a couple of months ago.

Mr. GILMAN. Very well. That is what we are here for. I hope it will work to some advantage on both sides of the fence.

Mr. LEWIS. Sheriff Holt, you wanted to make a statement.

Mr. HOLT. Good morning, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LEWIS. Sheriff, if you would state your name.

Mr. HOLT. James Holt. I am sheriff of Martin County.

I am going to put my local DEA agent in charge on the spot here.

Have you received intelligence down from the task force to be distributed among locals at any time, Vinny?

Mr. MAZZILLI. We received EPIC bulletins concerning ships and aircraft that are put on lookout. Directly, intelligence information earmarked to be passed down to the locals, no.

What we do is we will pass on information. For instance, if a ship is coming into your area, we will definitely pass it on to you, and we have in the past, as well as an aircraft. We hold back nothing as far as the local authorities go on that type of interdiction.

Mr. HOLT. Thank you, Vinny.

Mr. Lewis, as far as working locally with DEA and Customs, yes, definitely we do, and if they have information that a ship is overloading over at Memory Rock or someplace, yes, that information comes to us. But let me talk in his behalf for 1 second if I might. I think he has five officers to cover eight counties. So you see, here it is very seldom we get to see one, and very seldom that we get assistance more than they come up whenever we do seize a large shipment.

But as far as stakeouts or coming and helping us through an investigation, he just does not have the manpower to do it. We fully realize that. We usually notify them when we get intelligence and vice versa. But as far as them coming up and really assisting us in any intelligence gathering or information, it is almost impossible for them to do because they are scattered so thin in this field.

I am certainly glad to see the admiral here today. I have never known who actually headed up the task force. I am glad to know this is the way the information is supposed to get to locals, whenever we do have a situation here.

My concern, Admiral, is if you are chasing an airplane, pick it up around Cuba, coming through the straits, coming to the coast, I have been notified one time this thing would probably hit the coast somewhere between Fort Pierce and Vero Beach. If we can just know this ahead of time, I can cover everyplace it can be dropped

or landed within Martin County in a very few minutes, if we just knew where he was going to break the coast at.

One time we received that, and that was from the local Customs office in West Palm Beach. They called us and said the task force had relayed to them this airplane was coming. But on the other hand, I have seen you all go over with a Citation, the big helicopter you have, and chase them right over our county, and we never had any information from anybody that you were coming over. We have had two instances where you have lost them right in the area of our county, and you give us a coordination where the plane was lost.

One time we found the airplane. The other time we never did find the airplane. If we just knew ahead of time this thing was coming, we could cover it just that quick, and I think every other local agent here could probably do the same thing; if we had some way to get this information from you to us.

Thank you. It is certainly a pleasure to meet you.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Gilman.

Mr. GILMAN. Sheriff Holt, you are telling us that you have never received any information from NNBIS or been consulted. Is that what you are telling us?

Mr. HOLT. Up until today, I never knew if they come—now, he does have an officer that works very closely with us here locally. He has told us about ships offloading at Memory Rock, or an airplane drop at Memory Rock, or somewheres in the Bahamas. I never knew this was coming from the task force until just this morning. But DEA has passed information, our local Customs officer in the area has passed information on, and also the Coast Guard in our area has passed information on to us locally, that there probably would be several small boats coming from an area into the coast. But I never knew it was coming from the task force.

Mr. GILMAN. Could the DEA gentleman stand up again.

Mr. MAZZILLI. I am Vince Mazzilli.

Mr. GILMAN. That information really came from EPIC, didn't it, not NNBIS, the offloading?

Mr. MAZZILLI. Sir, there has been various information that comes in through different sources. The information that comes in through our EPIC system, which is a national intelligence system, is passed on routinely to the different local agents.

Mr. GILMAN. What sort of information would be passed on to you through NNBIS that should be disseminated to local police agents?

Mr. MAZZILLI. That should be.

Mr. GILMAN. Or that you do pass on.

Mr. MAZZILLI. For instance, if EPIC or NNBIS finds out that an aircraft is suspected of smuggling, and is en route from South America, if they have a distinction, that type of information would be passed on.

We pass on independently of NNBIS and EPIC information gotten from local sources, local informants or sources of local police nature. In other words, if a local police department—for instance, Palm Beach County—has information that an aircraft will be arriving into Martin County, we often pass that information on to Martin County—I am using that as an example—in order to coordinate activities.

Mr. GILMAN. How do you pass that information on?

Mr. MAZZILLI. By telephone, sir.

Mr. LEWIS. Will the gentleman yield.

On that point, Vince, when do you pass this information on? When you sight, make the sighting in the straits or when they are off the coast? How much time do they have to be effective when they get this information? How much time do you have to be effective when you receive it?

Mr. MAZZILLI. Sir, we have different types of information that we receive. We could receive information well in advance of an event through local informants. That information will be passed on as soon as possible, as soon as we know which jurisdiction that vessel or aircraft would be landing into.

Then there are other types of information that we receive from EPIC and from NNBIS putting a particular aircraft or vessel on lookout. That information at times is sketchy. Unless the information is specific, saying that it is going to arrive into Martin County or into, say, Highlands County or St. Lucie County, it is usually not passed on, because there is no reason to pass it on to that particular county. It is only when the information becomes specific and narrowed down that it is passed on.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Mazzilli, what information or what type of coordination effort do you have now as a result of NNBIS that you did not have before NNBIS was established?

Mr. MAZZILLI. To be quite honest with you, sir, I don't know.

Mr. GILMAN. How long have you been down here, Mr. Mazzilli, down in this region?

Mr. MAZZILLI. In Florida, for 7 years.

Mr. GILMAN. You were here before NNBIS came into being?

Mr. MAZZILLI. That is correct.

Mr. GILMAN. And you don't see any major change in operations since NNBIS came on board or any significant information that has been passed on?

Mr. MAZZILLI. Personally, I don't, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Mr. Gilman.

I would like to ask this gentleman right here, if I may. How do you feel your department receives information from the Feds on an incoming possibility of abuse or a plane or a boat and what is the general communications that your office has with the Feds?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. I am Richard Guiffrida.

Basically, it is local contacts that we have either with Customs or DEA, where a city police department—we don't cover a large area like a county sheriff does. We have never really received any direct information from the task force; never actually—I think we have had two contacts, twice. Basically, it is more of a localized problem, that we work within our own jurisdiction. We give information to DEA. We give information to the local contacts that we have with Customs in Broward County. It is done on that basis.

The officers have personal contact, that they know individuals in the offices, and you do have a rapport and relationships, and through these relationships, information is passed back and forth. But as far as a steady flow of information going back and forth, basically there is nothing really set up.

Mr. LEWIS. Have you ever had a briefing by the South Florida Task Force or NNBIS to tell you what—indicate to you what their responsibilities are, the area they are going to cover, and what kind of cooperative arrangement they would like to set up with your department?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. No.

Mr. LEWIS. Do you receive any bulletins, memoranda, from them at all?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. No, not to my knowledge.

Mr. LEWIS. So when you say you are working with the local assigned agents, is that like DEA?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. DEA and Customs, we do, but it is the local thing that we have had set up the last 10, 15 years. We haven't seen any major change since the task force came in as far as relationship of information being passed back and forth.

Mr. LEWIS. Let me ask you this direct question: With the establishment of the South Florida Task Force and NNBIS—how long have you been with the Deerfield Police Department?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. Sixteen years.

Mr. LEWIS. Since the establishment of the South Florida Task Force and NNBIS, have you recognized any reduction in the flow of narcotics since their establishment in south Florida?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. In our area, I would say yes. It is a difficult question for a municipal police officer to answer.

Mr. LEWIS. I understand. But your street traffic, has it picked up, stayed the same, reduced?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. It fluctuates.

Mr. LEWIS. Have you noticed a change from marijuana to cocaine, an increase in cocaine?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. A definite increase in cocaine in the last few years.

Mr. LEWIS. How do you think it would be helpful to you and your department if you met with NNBIS and the South Florida Task Force on a twice yearly basis or quarterly basis or once a year?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. I think you have to remember in government here, we have State, county, and municipal. I think what you have to set up is a form of communication involving all three and the Federal Government, because the information has to flow up, but it also has to be fed up, too, from the lowest level. There can be many instances, taking a hypothetical, where a plain street officer can stumble on to something and can work into something, just through a traffic stop or anything else like that. And intelligence may be gathered. And there has to be some means of getting that information from the city police to the county level to the State level and to the Federal level.

Mr. LEWIS. Would the gentleman yield.

Mr. Guiffrida, do you have any problem in passing that information upward when you come on it? Who would you pass it on to, for example, if you came on to some important information, you think the Feds ought to know about?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. We generally pass it on to the DEA and Customs.

Mr. GILMAN. Is there any problem about getting that flow of information through to them?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. No, not really.

Mr. GILMAN. Do you find any obstruction in getting information downward, if you need some information besides coming out voluntarily?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. It very seldom comes down voluntarily. You have to make the request.

Mr. GILMAN. When you make the request, does it come through pretty readily?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. It depends on the relationship that the investigators have with whoever is working in Customs or DEA. You can't arbitrarily just pick up the phone and say you are so-and-so and this is Customs and they are going to tell you what you have to know. You have to have a rapport with somebody.

Mr. GILMAN. What is your duty assignment?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. I am in charge of all investigations, narcotics, vice.

Mr. GILMAN. How often have you had voluntary contact from the Feds to you with regard to narcotics? How often do they drop in or arrange a meeting with you?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. The local people do. We have a steady rapport with the local people.

Mr. GILMAN. Are you talking about DEA?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. I am talking about DEA and Customs.

Mr. GILMAN. How often do you meet with them?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. That would be a hard question to answer. It all depends on the circumstances.

Mr. GILMAN. Is there some regularity in the meetings?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. No, no regular meeting. No monthly meeting.

Mr. GILMAN. Have you been to any conference-type of meeting in the last year or so where you discussed strategy and policy and had some opportunity for input?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. No.

Mr. GILMAN. When was the last time you had that kind of a meeting with a Federal representative?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. Everything that we do with the Federal Government, like I said, is always on an individual basis.

Mr. GILMAN. Mostly then when you call on them or when they call on you?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. Both ways.

Mr. GILMAN. And that is an individual call?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. Right. That is correct.

Mr. GILMAN. To discuss a particular case, I take it?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. Yes, or particular information.

Mr. GILMAN. Would such a conference or such meetings be helpful to you to sit down and talk about overall strategy?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. I think so. I think it would be helpful for everything.

Mr. GILMAN. What would you like to see done that would be most effective to help you in your work from the Federal level?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. I think it is a combination, not just the Federal, but of local, too.

Mr. GILMAN. Tell us.

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. I think I would like to see some sort of a setup where a flow of information can be fed both down and up, but involving both the municipal, county and State in coordination with

the Federal Government. Have a regular meeting or regular setup, some sort of monthly or quarterly, or some committee or organization, maybe like county level, to coordinate it.

Mr. GILMAN. Some sort of regular conference-type of arrangement where you can have input from both directions?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. Right.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you.

Where I mentioned to Sheriff Wille earlier if we had some sort of commission, committee, with the locals and the State to meet periodically with the Feds, you feel this would help the flow of information up and down?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. Yes. I think Sheriff Wille hit the nail on the head when he said anytime you can talk to somebody, you are 100 percent better.

Mr. LEWIS. Let me ask you a final question. Have you had the opportunity to pick up the morning paper or receive a phone call at 2 p.m., and find out there was a tremendous drug bust in Deerfield Beach and you didn't know anything about it, and this was done at the Federal level?

Mr. GUIFFRIDA. No. We have never had that happen with us.

Mr. LEWIS. OK. Some have.

Thank you, Captain.

Does anyone at this point have anything to comment on?

Mr. MURPHY. Lt. John Murphy, Martin County Sheriff's Department.

The problem I face every day is that we have too many heads we have to go through to get information. Is there a problem with organizing—using an example, for the State of Florida, input from Federal, local, State, cities, for this narcotics information to be channeled into? There seems to be a problem getting into through FDLE, FBI, Customs? Is there a problem with getting a head, somebody in charge of narcotics in south Florida, one agency in charge, say, DEA? Then I think this animosity between Federal agents who cease if you had somebody in charge that the locals could go to. I might be wrong, but I would like to see that.

If I am wrong, somebody tell me if I am wrong.

Mr. LEWIS. Do you feel, Lieutenant, there is a problem even between the Federal agents as to who is steering the ship?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, I do. I think there is a problem between Customs here sharing information with the FBI, FBI sharing with DEA; and right on down to the lowest police agent in the State of Florida. I think that is where the problem is. I think that is our problem here in the State of Florida. I would like to get that out in the open.

Mr. GILMAN. Lieutenant, can you give us an example where you may have had some problem with the number of Federal agents involved, where you try to go to one and had some problem getting information from another?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes. There has been times that I have been passed on information that was—seemed to be more or less privy, that it came from another Federal agency—we are not supposed to know about it. I think we are all in law enforcement, but we should be

trusted or let's get out of it. That is my problem. There is a mistrust, I think, between the agents.

Mr. GILMAN. A lack of information flowing downward to you where you made a request?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. Do you have some specific example where the complexity of the Federal involvement created a problem for you, trying to get something solved?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes. I have had problems with different things. I would like to say this first: DEA to me is professional law enforcement, most of them I have seen. I cannot speak that for some of the Customs agents I have had dealings with. That is why I say if we had local DEA officers, which we work good with local DEA—I have no problems there—but like the sheriff said, they are understaffed. And if that problem could be helped, where we could put our information into, that is the problem I am trying to address, is trying to put the information in one central location.

Mr. GILMAN. Where do you turn to, when you have some important information you want to pass up the chain?

Mr. MURPHY. DEA, local office, West Palm Beach. And I turn to them when I need information.

Mr. GILMAN. Have you ever had any contact with any of the other agencies, with Customs or with any Border Patrol people, with Coast Guard, with NNBIS, with EPIC? Have you had any contact with any of those agents?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes. I had contact with them. We tried to work out a solution, with a man in our county, from the local Customs office. This failed to pan out. We even provided the man with a car and radio. I think this is what would work real good, having an officer in the county, like they have two DEA officers in our county, and maybe two Customs officers working in the county. In that way, the people working together, they can go to coffee together. This information would be passed on. Instead of having meetings every day, you would have a representative from each department working together.

Mr. LEWIS. Lieutenant, what is your position with the Martin County Sheriff's Department?

Mr. MURPHY. I am in charge of vice and narcotics.

Mr. LEWIS. What is your relationship with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement?

Mr. MURPHY. Fair, sir.

Mr. LEWIS. As far as exchange of information, has the Florida Department of Law Enforcement been helpful in respect to incoming aircraft in and around Martin County?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir. On an individual basis, yes. Not as a whole. I don't receive any information from FDLE as far as intelligence bulletins. I do not receive any from U.S. Customs or from DEA except on an individual basis, when they call us that they think one might be coming across Martin County. I would like to look at some of the information and determine myself if it might be useful. I might be working a case on something, and I might see a name that might mean something to me.

Mr. LEWIS. I guess what is amazing to me is so many of you have such a high percentage of busts and arrests, that it would seem to

me you could even be doing a much better job in slowing the flow of narcotics if we did have better communications. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. Sheriff Holt, I think, mentioned once in a while you would get together locally. Have you been invited to any State conference or any Federal conference in order to make some input on your thoughts on narcotics strategy and policies?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. Never been to any of those?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. Do you think they would be helpful to you?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, I think so.

Mr. GILMAN. Has the State ever suggested any sort of conference for the regional people down here in trying to work out anything?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. How often do you meet with the regional law enforcement people? Do you get together once in a while?

Mr. MURPHY. With the local DEA?

Mr. GILMAN. Sort of on a conference basis?

Mr. MURPHY. We have lunch together, talk over our problems.

Mr. GILMAN. One to one, or several of you?

Mr. MURPHY. Several. Like one officer from DEA will work a specific area. He will come up with our supervisor.

Mr. GILMAN. How often do you do that?

Mr. MURPHY. Well, with Carter, we have contact all the time when needed, but again, he is limited as far as the manpower situation.

Mr. GILMAN. If you have any ideas on policy or strategy, how do you pass them on through?

Mr. MURPHY. I would have to get with the local DEA office.

Mr. GILMAN. That is about your only contact?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. You have not had any real contact then with any of the other Federal agents?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, I have had contact with them. I have been a little disappointed. And I might be speaking out of turn, but I worked with the local FBI office, and they seem to have a problem with the prosecutors in Palm Beach County. They have two to handle the caseload for all this area, and that is a problem.

Mr. GILMAN. We got into that problem at the last hearing.

Mr. MURPHY. Yes. We started a case back in December and it still hasn't come up yet.

Mr. GILMAN. Have you seen any decrease in narcotics arrests, narcotics trafficking, narcotics seizure, as a result of the Federal efforts here in the last year?

Mr. MURPHY. No, sir. Not really. Maybe our seizures—maybe we don't have enough intelligence to catch them, but as far as the street level, we have more cocaine probably in Martin County than we ever have had, and the price is $700 an ounce if you buy up to a pound. It has come down from $5,400 to $2,800 a kilo.

Mr. GILMAN. More on the streets, but less by way of seizure.

Mr. MURPHY. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Lieutenant.

The gentleman in the brown suit, you wanted to make a comment.

Give you name and position and where you are from.

Mr. GAVALIER. Dennis Gavalier, detective, Broward County Sheriff's Office.

I would just like to say that as far as working with Customs and DEA local offices, we have a very, very good relationship. In fact, in our office, we have a desk set aside for a Customs agent, Ed Hitesmith. We furnish him with a car and a pager and a desk and work very well with Customs and very well with DEA. As far as the task force in Broward County, I have never met anybody there, never talked to anybody. Once in a while, down in Miami, we will talk to somebody down there, but that is about it.

Mr. LEWIS. How do you feel that the communications can be improved between the Feds and the locals?

Mr. GAVALIER. Well, like I say, we have a very good relationship with the local offices, but the task force is just going to have to sit down and talk to each other. Like I say, I have not ever talked to anybody in Broward County about any incident or any crime or anything drug related with the task force whatsoever.

Mr. LEWIS. Have you initiated any communications up to the Federal task force to obtain information, either through the DEA office or Customs office?

Mr. GAVALIER. Well, I have done cases where the task force before, just about maybe 1½ years ago. I felt that I was really being used by them, and I was. I was really used by them as far as—we had a couple of agents down there that were there for 6 months, 1 year, and they say, "Hey, we have to make cases, we have to do this, we have to do that," and I gave them a very, very good case with an informant and they botched it. They don't know the area. They didn't know what they were doing.

Mr. LEWIS. You say they botched it. Do you feel that it was because you provided the information and they wanted to go on their own, and not have you involved or any of your Department involved with the program?

Mr. GAVALIER. That is part of it, yes. But as far as surveillance, like I say, they didn't know the area. They just—I felt I was being used.

Mr. GILMAN. Would the gentleman yield.

You are talking about the task force?

Mr. GAVALIER. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. That of Memory?

Mr. GAVALIER. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. And that was for a case in Broward County?

Mr. GAVALIER. It initiated in Broward County and went down to Dade County.

Mr. GILMAN. You gave them the information and they didn't utilize it properly?

Mr. GAVALIER. That was my concern.

Mr. GILMAN. Were you part of that operation? Did they make you part of the operation?

Mr. GAVALIER. Yes, I was.

Mr. GILMAN. Were you able to give them advice, any constructive suggestions along the way as you worked with them?

Mr. GAVALIER. Yes. I was open, yes.

Mr. GILMAN. Is that the only one you worked on with them?

Mr. GAVALIER. Yes. Like I say, I never—I worked the streets. I have been doing narcotics for many years. They don't contact us, we don't contact them. We go through our local agents.

Mr. GILMAN. How did you happen to become associated with them on this case? Was it because of the information you passed on? Were you detailed to them?

Mr. GAVALIER. Like I say, it initiated in Broward County. I had to go down to Dade County. We contacted our local agents, DEA, and Customs. At that time, the task force was big on doing all cases. And it was turned over to them.

Mr. GILMAN. If you were able to make some recommendations to the Federal policy people, what would you find to be the most significant recommendation you would like to make to them for improving their methods?

Mr. GAVALIER. I would think communications. The big thing now is we work with several people. They are there to work with us. They are not there for 6 months. They are living there now. It is their community. They take pride in curtailing drug flow. They are not there just to get numbers. They are there to help us out, help themselves out, the community. It seems to me when I did work for the task force, it seems like they had a chip on their shoulders, meaning that they were there away from their families, and they didn't care, just didn't care.

Mr. GILMAN. You touched on the need for communication. Now, tell us a little bit more about what you would like to see done in communication.

Mr. GAVALIER. Well, to be honest with you, you have to get together and talk one to one. Like I say, we have a Customs agent working right out of our office and it is great. We are together almost every day. I tell him things, he tells me things. If anything comes up that the Feds have to handle, he gets the job done, and it is great. It really works good.

Mr. GILMAN. So there is a lack of opportunity of just general discussion on cases and information at the present time with other agents, is that what you are saying?

Mr. GAVALIER. Yes, I think so. You know, if I do, say, get a tip and something is going to happen down in Miami, where a boat might come in, I want to make sure something gets done on it. I don't want to just give somebody some information and nothing gets done on it.

Mr. GILMAN. Has that happened, when you passed information on up through the chain?

Mr. GAVALIER. Sure.

Mr. GILMAN. You get no report back or no response?

Mr. GAVALIER. That is correct.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, sir.

Is the representative from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement here?

Would one of you gentlemen take the mike. I would like to ask you a few questions.

If you would give your name and department and what your position is.

Mr. EDWARDS. Bob Edwards, with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, director of the Division of Local Law Enforcement Assistance.

Mr. LEWIS. You have heard some of the comments this morning, Mr. Edwards. I would like to know how the Florida FDLE interacts with the local law enforcement agents as well as the Feds in Florida.

Mr. EDWARDS. Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

We do have within Florida what is known as the Florida intelligence center. It originally started out as the Florida Interagency Narcotics Intelligence Network. The system was expanded because we went from one crime specific, narcotics, which we were all being eaten up with, to an expanded system with other areas. At the present time, that system is comprised of all of the sheriffs' offices in the State and a total of 300 local law enforcement agents as well as some Federal agents that participate.

The idea is to minimize the fragmentation and the autonomy that goes on in information-sharing in especially the narcotics area. We feel we have been successful in that area, not because the department has been successful, but because local law enforcement has been successful. The data base at the present time consists of about 300,000 pieces of information. We have the ability to share information and get a response back as a tactical need, on a continuous basis. As far as the Federal involvement with the Department of Law Enforcement, I have with me here this morning Director Nursey, who is in charge of our Criminal Investigations Division, and he can address the specific investigative issue, interagency action activity there.

I would like to say—I see Admiral Thompson—I would like to say that the Department has just placed an agent and an analyst in the NNBIS center for the purpose of bridging the gap that exists between the Federal agents and the State. The idea is that we can act as a focal point for the interaction with local agents and hope that two-way communication can be enhanced. We are working on that at the present time. That has been a very recent move, within the last couple of months, that the agent has become participatory in NNBIS.

Mr. LEWIS. How do you feel that the interaction is working—apparently it has been workable and it may be getting better, between the Federal task force, NNBIS, and FDLE? But there seems to be an area of openness between there and the local law enforcement offices?

With the inclusion of your two positions with Admiral Thompson's office, how do you feel that is going to help the local law enforcement people?

Mr. EDWARDS. If you look at the traditional role of intelligence, the historical perspective has been a close-to-the-chest type of thing. You don't normally share intelligence information. When we established the narcotics intelligence center back 3 years ago,the purpose was to use something that we are all being involved in and bombarded with, and hopefully that would enhance the communications. That has happened. We have been able to build a sense of

responsiveness back to the locals, as well as the locals working on us, and we have gone through a metamorphis, if you will, from a traditional attitude of "We cannot share intelligence," to one of "If you have a secured environment, if you know that you have security within the system, credibility of the data that you are sharing, then hopefully we can go into a role to where it is more freely done."

I don't think that it is something that anyone can wave a wand and change overnight. I think it is going to take time. I think it has changed considerably in Florida within the last 3 to 4 years.

At the administrative level, there has been an acceptance of information exchange and sharing. Now we have to make that reality down at the local level and at the street level. I don't think you can do it through edicts. I don't think you can do it through providing the vehicle. It just has to come as a transition where there is a feeling of trust between agencies.

Mr. LEWIS. Well, that is the next question I was going to raise to you, Mr. Edwards. There seems to me to be a great margin of distrust between the Federal agencies and the local agencies. I don't know whether it is because who is going to get the most press, or who is going to make sure the press is available or whether we have a real serious turf problem.

Apparently, we have some sort of turf problem between Federal agencies; always have had. And now it appears that we have even a greater turf problem between the Feds and the local agencies.

I am concerned and that is why we are here, to open this discussion up with people like yourself and everyone else sitting here in order to get it out on the table. Certainly, we recognize you have to play intelligence close to your investigation and be very careful about that, but it would seem to me that Lt. Murphy, the General from Deerfield Beach, the Captain here from Broward, certainly in the positions they are, know who they can and cannot trust, even from informants and members of their own departments.

We have to get this straightened out or we are all going to go down the tube on this problem. Do you think a formal structure should be considered as a liaison between Federal, State, and local enforcement agencies in south Florida to enhance the coordination and cooperation in narcotics enforcement?

Mr. EDWARDS. I don't think that will alone solve the problem. I think everyone you talk to is going to tell you that we agree there is a need for better communications and we all are striving for that.

I wish we could put a time on it and tell you when that is going to occur, but I think in law enforcement there is a credibility curve you have to consider. As we provide the vehicles and people feel comfortable that they are able to maintain that data securely and the information is credible and that the interaction and cooperation is realistic and not just veneer, we will get there.

But I don't think anyone in this room will express to you a lack of desire for better communications and openness. And hopefully we are working toward that.

Mr. LEWIS. Let me ask you if the Florida Department of Law Enforcement could be the focal point, the apex for the flow of information up and down from the Feds. Would that be a step?

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes, sir, we have established through our intelligence center—we have done just that. And it has grown in size and in ability to respond to the locals. It is a tactical intelligence center. It has the ability to share information from agency to agency.

The concept that we developed was one of information sharing where you have a focal point for sharing. Once the information is put into a data base, if you will, then it can be readily made available. I think we have accomplished that. I think we have been able to provide that service to the local agencies with varying degrees of success.

I feel it will get better.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Edwards, your office is the local law enforcement assistance office.

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. And you heard some comments here today that there has been very little by way of conferring with the Federal agencies and also very little by way of conferring with the State agency. Do you see a need for bringing together our law enforcement people in some sort of a periodic conference in order to have an interchange of ideas and thoughts and strategy and make a more effective policy for the region?

Mr. EDWARDS. Absolutely.

Mr. GILMAN. Can that be done on a State level?

Mr. EDWARDS. I think it can be. We have an advisory board that serves to provide direction to the Florida Intelligence Center comprised of local administrators. Any time that you have a forum where local law enforcement can come together and share information and ideas, and develop direction, it has to be positive.

You have also in the State intelligence unit, the Flordia intelligence unit that comes together on a regular basis. They have meetings every 3 to 6 months and nothing but good can come out of that type of forum, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. Then you see the possibility of doing this with regard to drug enforcement?

Mr. EDWARDS. I think it is possible. I think the problem you run into is at the State level and the local level is budget constraints. When you start calling together a forum of people and you want to do it on a State-wide basis, you have to look at local budgets. Can you afford to send people for this type of conference for 3 or 4 days in a workshop environment.

That is a very realistic concern.

Mr. GILMAN. Maybe you could do it on a regional basis and be the spearhead and maybe attract some of the Federal people to come on board and start some real joint thinking going.

Mr. EDWARDS. No question.

Mr. GILMAN. I hope you might be able to work that out. If we are not doing enough of that at the Federal level, we are certainly going to be prodding with some of our Federal people to help with this. Maybe you can be the spearhead for that. It sounds like there is a need for that kind of exchange of ideas and opportunity for input by our local law enforcemenet people.

Mr. EDWARDS. No question.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Edwards, you speak of budget constraints. We all have those problems, but from our travels, we feel that in the majority of cases where we can substantiate a case, where the locals and State can substantiate a case, and show a degree of success in the fight against drug trafficking, that they do receive in most cases a reasonably adequate budget to continue on.

Now, over the years, serving in the Florida State Legislature, I served on the appropriations subcommittee for your budget for 8 years—I heard over and over, once we spend the millions of dollars to provide the radio communications network through this particular area, we will be able to lock in these people that are flying up from Colombia and be able to nail them.

We spent millions of dollars to do that. And they are still getting through. Then we moved on and did some other things. This is not criticism of any particular department, but then it was felt crime was running rampant in south Florida because of drug trafficking. So we established a Federal task force. And that has been converted over to an NNBIS operation under Admiral Thompson.

Now, we still hear the same thing about budgets and things of this nature. But we can push all the money of every community, county, and State into these budgets—until we establish a line of communications and an element of trust; that we are really out to bust drug traffickers, the money isn't going to help us at all.

What I would like to throw out at this point and we have heard it from several people, we have asked the question, Mr. Gilman, and I and you have alluded to it as well, that if we had a conference or a liaison that could provide cooperation and coordination to enhance the throw of information and certainly I don't think anybody sitting here or down there wants us to violate any intelligence.

But I do think that this gentleman right here and this gentleman right here and the gentleman over there at the end of the table, wants to feel a part of the operation. And he has pride in his job. He certainly hates to read in a newspaper what he did the day before, what he was supposed to do. This happens with too many people too often.

If we had a conference, an annual conference or a quarterly conference or a committee or commission set up to work with under FDLE or under the sheriff's bureau, or under NNBIS, to come up and provide information back and forth. Let us know what the team is doing—the Dolphins can't do a thing or neither can the Redskins unless they have been calling the signals.

That is the way they run the place. It just seems to me we are not running the place right down here. We have heard this in Washington. We have heard it in a hearing here. We are looking for answers. I think everybody out here is looking for answers, because everybody has pride in their job and wants to do a job.

Do you think that a liaison committee set up under some organization or under your group—and this is not only speaking here for south Florida, we get this problem in California and Texas as well, and we will be holding hearings out there as well on the same thing so that we can have a coordinating committee to identify and solve the problems in this communication area.

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes, sir, before I answer that, let me refer back. I was not using this as a forum for a budget issue.

Mr. LEWIS. I understand.

Mr. EDWARDS. We have been very fortunate within our agency and others in trying to do the job as best we can with the dollars that we have. I hope you did not misinterpret me.

Mr. LEWIS. No, sir, I did not. We had heard in a previous committee, when we had nobody asking for anything, we started asking questions, they needed this and that and they were not asking for more money. And we got in quite a discussion.

Mr. EDWARDS. In reference to your question in terms of an advisory board, if you will, in dealing with the gap between Federal, State, and locals, we have met recently in Atlanta with Admiral Thompson and several others within the region that falls in the south Florida NNBIS Center.

One of the recommendations that came out of that meeting, which was comprised of primarily State agencies interacting with the local agencies, was the purpose to establish an advisory board, if you will, to act as a communications between the Federal and the State agencies and hopefully expand to the locals.

We recommended that local agencies be a part of that. Anything that you can do to enhance communications between—explain and educate, will make things better.

In reference to the sheriffs association and the chiefs association, we have given numerous presentations to both of those bodies about what is going on at the State level, what is happening with the Florida Intelligence Center, what is happening with domestic marijuana on the State level, and what services are available there.

In terms of what we will do with the NNBIS Center, we intend to do the same thing there. We know the communication has not been what it should. We have discussed that. Quite frankly, up until we got someone, that center, I didn't know what we would educate locals on, because I didn't know what the services were. But we full well intend to take those issues to both the chiefs and the sheriffs of the State.

Mr. GILMAN. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. Edwards, do you have a liaison with DEA in their Miami office?

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes, sir. We have a liaison. We have a field office in Miami as part of our Division of Criminal Investigation. That field office works on a day-to-day basis with all the Federal agencies.

Mr. GILMAN. But is there a specific liaison assigned over to DEA?

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes, sir. The NNBIS Center, which I am referring to, we have just assigned an agent from the Department of Law Enforcement as well as an analyst from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Mr. GILMAN. That is to NNBIS. Do you have one with DEA?

Mr. EDWARDS. I am sure we have. Jim, would you like to address that?

Mr. GILMAN. Please identify yourself.

Mr. NURSEY. Jim Nursey, director of Division of Criminal Investigation for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. I have re-

sponsibility for the agencies in the field that do criminal investigations including the narcotics investigations.

Mr. GILMAN. Do you have a liaison with DEA?

Mr. EDWARDS. That would be the bureau chief in the Miami south region office. Yes.

Mr. LEWIS. His responsibility is to be liaison with the Miami DEA office?

Mr. NURSEY. That is his responsibility, yes.

Mr. GILMAN. Do you have a liaison with the Florida task force?

Mr. NURSEY. He would also serve in that capacity.

Mr. GILMAN. Is he going to be the NNBIS liaison?

Mr. NURSEY. No, he is not. The person that is going to be in NNBIS, there will be one special agent and one crime intelligence and analyst. This representative is the management representative of FDLE in south Florida.

Mr. GILMAN. Tell me why did you select—maybe the question ought to go back to Mr. Edwards.

Why a liaison for NNBIS and not a liaison with the other agencies? Do you have one with Customs, for example?

Mr. EDWARDS. I think what we have done in the past, we have made liaison contact with each of the Federal agencies to become members of the Florida Intelligence Center, to bring the Federal action in.

Mr. GILMAN. Are they in?

Mr. EDWARDS. I cannot answer that. I can check and get back to you.

Mr. GILMAN. Would you happen to know whether they are in?

Mr. NURSEY. Mr. Gilman, I think you have hit the problem right on the head. I am not being critical.

Mr. GILMAN. That is what we are here for, to find out the problems.

Mr. NURSEY. This is an observation. You have asked during the hearing today what various agency relationships with various Federal agencies and Federal entities happens to be. I can tell you just one specifically: The Drug Enforcement Administration. The relationship that FDLE has with DEA in various parts of the State varies from one area of the State to another area of the State.

In some parts of the State we have a very close working relationship. In some parts of the State we work cases very well together with DEA. In other parts of the State there are virtually no working relationships with DEA for a number of reasons.

About 8 weeks ago, I went to Washington and met with Bud Mullen in his office for 3½ hours. We discussed these and other issues. I can assure you in my mind and the mind of my agency, DEA, managerially, speaking of Bud Mullen specifically, is doing everything it possibly can to bring coordination to the various cases that are being worked by agencies throughout the field, not just in Florida, but in all States.

The problem is this. I can go and talk to Bud Mullen, and then another day I am going to have to go up and going to have to talk to Mr. von Raab and some other day I have to talk to either Nick Schowengerdt, who represents NNBIS in Washington or Admiral Thompson, who represents NNBIS in south Florida.

You have so many agencies. You have law enforcement coordinating committees. You have the south Florida Interdiction Task Force, the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System. You now have the 12 narcotic task forces in other parts of the country outside of south Florida, which are not takeovers from the South Florida Task Force, but are enforcement task forces as opposed to interdiction.

You have Customs. You have Coast Guard. And I could go on and on and on. It is very difficult to juggle all of these various relationships because we are dealing with so many agencies in the Federal level. If there could be and certainly I am not talking in favor of a drug czar—nor on a position to a drug czar—but if there could be one person or one body or one individual that we could go to and coordinate our efforts with all of these agencies and all of these entities, I think we could accomplish things a lot more effectively.

In addition to all of the various agencies we have talked about, we have the U.S. attorneys, three of which are in Florida.

Mr. GILMAN. If I might interrupt you a moment, what, for example, would necessitate you going from the DEA office over to NNBIS office that you could not discuss with the DEA office when you are in Washington?

Mr. NURSEY. Bud Mullen does not run NNBIS.

Mr. GILMAN. What specific problem, for example, would you have that you could not take up with Mullen's office, that you would have to run over to the Customs or someone else?

Mr. NURSEY. I would not want to call it a problem. I am talking about a concern. You are talking about drug enforcement in south Florida. Bud Mullen really doesn't run NNBIS. He doesn't run Customs.

Mr. GILMAN. There is no question about that, but what problem would you have that you could not feed into Mullen that could not be taken care of.

Mr. NURSEY. Let me give you an example. Let's get it away from NNBIS. I don't want to get into a lot of detail. Take a hypothetical case based on fact, where FDLE is working criminal investigation. We go to DEA. We begin to work this criminal investigation with DEA. We have some reluctance in the beginning to do a joint investigation. We agree there are some things we can share because we are working the same target.

As we proceed, it becomes obvious now it is time to determine where prosecution is going to lie. So we go to the local State attorney and we say to the local State attorney we want to have this case prosecuted, it is going to go beyond your particular circuit, so we are probably going to have to use a Federal U.S. attorney or we are going to have to use a statewide grand jury and a statewide—someone from the statewide prosecution unit to do it.

Then you sit down with the U.S. attorney. DEA is here working to some extent with us. Then you have a U.S. attorney that says, "No, we don't want to go that way. We want to prosecute in this fashion and you guys want to do this."

In other words, I could go to the SAC in DEA and tell him everything we need to do in that case and he could agree fully, but if the U.S. attorney doesn't want to prosecute it in that fashion, we have

a problem which DEA cannot address because DEA has no authority over the U.S. attorney.

Now, I am using a hypothetical situation, but relating to a specific case in which the U.S. attorney wanted to prosecute certain types of trafficking crimes, we know the State wanted to go further, and we wanted to pursue State racketeering charges so we could get a series showing a criminal enterprise and come up with much greater charges.

Mr. GILMAN. How did you get that resolved?

Mr. NURSEY. We went out on our own and just ignored basically the Federal system.

Mr. GILMAN. Did you take it up on the Federal task force?

Mr. NURSEY. No, we did not. Again, you are pointing to my problem. How many different people and entities are we going to have to deal with.

Mr. GILMAN. Admiral Thompson, could you take the microphone? When you run into a problem of this nature, are you in a position to untangle that?

Admiral THOMPSON. I would be in a position to put a little pressure through the Justice Department to see if we could get the U.S. attorneys, if it is a multiple jurisdiction, three districts in south Florida, to get them together—call them together.

Mr. GILMAN. You are in charge of the Federal task force as well as NNBIS?

Admiral THOMPSON. That's correct. The task force is still functioning. It is a South Florida Task Force. NNBIS goes up to the Maryland/Delaware border for me and down to the Virgin Islands. The South Florida Task Force is now a part of NNBIS.

Mr. GILMAN. The task force, Admiral, has the responsibility of coordinating this whole effort on the Federal level, right?

Admiral THOMPSON. That's correct. I am the coodinator for the South Florida Task Force. If I knew of his problem, I could have addressed it and——

Mr. GILMAN. If any of these fellows run into a problem like that, where should they go to get it untangled? That is a problem. They have so many agencies they are not sure where to go to. I am not sure where they should go to.

Admiral THOMPSON. I think they ought to come down to the South Florida Task Force. It is confusing to people in a Federal, State, and local jurisdiction, I am sure, to keep track of all the responsibilities within the Federal Government.

Mr. GILMAN. It is getting more and more confusing to all of us.

Admiral THOMPSON. If this was an organized crime conspiracy, drug related, and it was a State and Federal organization, it may end up in one of the 12 cities—the nearest one being Atlanta, where the U.S. attorney has jurisdiction.

The South Florida Task Force has a direct connection with the folks in Atlanta and with the Justice Department. We can call up the Attorney General's shop in Washington and say, listen, there is something going wrong in Florida relative to accepting this particular case; can't we work it out?

Yes. That is one of my jobs as a coordinator. I am not controlling things. I am trying to coordinate them. To the extent I can learn about them, we can try to coordinate them.

Mr. GILMAN. If any of the law enforcement gentlemen have a problem in untangling some of these bureaucratic complexities, or some of the problems that they run into with turf problems, you would be in a position to try to untangle them for them.

Admiral THOMPSON. Try to untangle them is a good way to describe it. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. You don't hesitate to invite them to come to you with those kind of problems.

Admiral THOMPSON. I encourage them to do that.

Mr. GILMAN. Where is that office, that they should contact?

Admiral THOMPSON. In Miami, in the Federal Office Building, 350-4836.

Mr. GILMAN. Who should they ask for?

Admiral THOMPSON. Coordinator. If I am not there, I have a small but effective staff. We have a 24-hour business going with the interdiction center and the intelligence center.

Mr. GILMAN. I think that he has to clarify some of that.

Admiral THOMPSON. The intelligence center has representatives from all the Federal agencies—ATF, FBI, DEA, and Customs.

Mr. GILMAN. Which center is that?

Admiral THOMPSON. That is the intelligence center, Task Force NNBIS in Miami. That is where FDLE will have their two residents on board to be the conduit to the State and local jurisdictions.

Mr. GILMAN. Will that be total intelligence or just a collection type of thing?

Admiral THOMPSON. It is a clearinghouse is the best way I can describe it. We will take what is collected; we will funnel it downward and we will accept it upward working with EPIC and all the other Federal agencies that have intelligence centers, the State and the locals. We are not trying to hide anything.

Mr. GILMAN. I think what has been pointed out so far, Admiral, that seems to be most constructive is that there is a need for better two-way communication. They have to know where you are and you have to know where they are. Maybe you can help them organize and clarify and get rid of some of these problems through your effort as a central agency.

I would hope there would be better two-way communication that could be established. I think that is coming out of this morning's session.

Mr. LEWIS. Before you sit down, Admiral, I think I have uncovered two problems. After listening to the gentleman discuss his problems in Washington, we have a real communication problem up there, where you have to bounce from agency to agency. But down here, if he had called your office, you are saying that you could have probably streamlined the problems where he would not have had to bounce from office to office and probably get some answers for him quicker.

Admiral THOMPSON. I could have tried and he may not have. I am not sure how much success I am going to have. I am working from Florida. Some of his problems may have been in the Washington area.

Mr. LEWIS. His was not all interdiction either.

Admiral THOMPSON. Where you have an investigation continuing, you are straying away from NNBIS and getting into some other things. But we can apply the pressure to the right nerves in Washington and through the Vice President's office.

Mr. LEWIS. Let me followup on what Mr. Gilman was pointing out. If all of these gentlemen have a problem in particular areas, they could call your office to help get it coordinated. But now as you have heard, and we have heard, and you have as well over the weeks, they don't know where to call. They don't know who to call because they don't know who you are.

A lot of them saw Admiral Thompson this morning for the first time. You have been a myth to some of them even though you are synonymous with the drug task force, who I think does one excellent job. But is there some way now that you could hold conferences with the south Florida law enforcement officers and maybe the north Florida law enforcement officers to such a degree, to let them know what NNBIS and the South Florida Task Force is, what it does?

In other words, go to them rather than have them come to you to get this thing off the ground and started.

Admiral THOMPSON. Yes, sir, Mr. Lewis. It is pretty clear we need to do a little better job of marketing. I am going to reserve judgment on exactly how we do that, until I hear what the consensus is here or what the opinions are.

There are through the U.S. attorneys, Federal districts, law enforcement coordinating commitments. That is something the Attorney General already has in place.

Mr. LEWIS. I have heard how effective and ineffective they are.

Admiral THOMPSON. It varies. We spend a lot of time with the limited staff we have running up from Maryland on down, meeting with the U.S. attorneys. And they bring in State and local people. At least along the coastline, we are spread too thin to have been out looking eyeball to eyeball with everybody here in the meeting this morning.

I apologize for that. It is a staffing problem, but we have to do a better job of advertising. I get your point.

Mr. LEWIS. Do you think by establishing some sort of liaison with south Florida or north Florida, made up of local law enforcement officers will help to some degree?

Admiral THOMPSON. At first blush, I had visions of a giant auditorium with a lot of people. I don't see that as being very effective. I think we need to have some kind of conduits that facilitate the information.

Mr. LEWIS. This could be the type of group that would set up the conference, work with you to set up the conferences with their colleagues.

Admiral THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Admiral Thompson.

Mr. NURSEY. Mr. Gilman, first of all, I did not mean to imply one goes to Washington and gets bounced from office to office.

Mr. LEWIS. You are the first one.

Mr. NURSEY. I had specific business to attend to with DEA. I was merely using that as an example, if, and I did not experience this, but if I had problems or business to attend to with various agen-

cies, because of the multiplicity of Federal agencies, I would have had to have one from one to another. I would like to also clarify that FDLE is well aware of Admiral Thompson and has worked very closely with him.

He has done a lot for and with us, but that does not change the fact and from the conversation that just took place the appearance was given that everything could have been solved by going to Admiral Thompson. I do not believe that is the case. One of the last statements, I think, he verifies that—that is we have the LECC's. We have been told from time to time at various meetings if you have any problems go to the the LECC and take it up with the U.S. attorney, if you have problems going to the local SAC of the FBI, if you have problems call Bud Mullen.

I am merely saying that today, this particular morning, we are being directed to Admiral Thompson. On other occasions, at other forums, we have been directed to other people. I would not want for you to leave thinking that this whole problem is going to be resolved by saying that we can go to Admiral Thompson and that is going to resolve it.

I would further add with regard to with working joint cases together, and I had not planned to get wound up into this, because representatives of my agency have got wound up from time to time before this committee and also before Glen English's committee and before other committees. And we have basically said the same thing over and over and over again.

As long as we are to this point now, I think I must continue—even if you can get coordinated with the Federal agency, and I feel I speak not just for State agencies in Florida, but for State agencies in other parts of the country and also for local agencies. Even if you can get your efforts coordinated, Federal Government and Federal agencies particularly and U.S. attorneys need to understand that in order for State and local agencies to continue to get the funding that they have to get to survive; that they have to be able to show some product, some result for what they are doing.

One of the ways they show that is to testify before either their State legislatures or the city commissions or the county commissions to get the funds. Another way they do that, back up their testimony, is to have media publicity, both in the print and broadcast media, as to what they are doing.

We have found repeatedly, not just in our agency, but in other agencies, that if you work with the Feds you generally get snaked out of the publicity. We are dealing with more here than just a turf issue and pride. We are dealing with dollars and cents, because when you get snaked out of publicity, you also get snaked out of the ability to go before your purse string holders and show them with documentation from the media what you have done.

We have recently got stung by these sort of things. And one of the reasons for the reluctance of State and local agencies to share information with the Feds—we know all the reasons for the Federal people being reluctant to share information with local agencies, but one of the reasons the State and local agencies are reluctant to share information and cases with Federal people, both U.S. attorneys and investigative agencies, is because of the apparent inclination of these agencies sometimes to present it as a Federal case.

And I can give you some specific examples, perhaps not right now, maybe in executive session or something—specific recent examples of this. I think we need to understand we are not only dealing with the need to develop one contact point where we can go to for coordination, we need to have a change or modification of the philosophy of representatives of the Federal Government as to how press is going to be handled.

Mr. GILMAN. In other words, you want a sharing of credit as well as responsibility.

Mr. NURSEY. Yes, indeed. Not simply for ego or turf, but simply because you cannot survive without it.

Mr. GILMAN. I think you make a good point. I hope our administrators who are here are listening and I am sure they are. Maybe some good constructive ideas will come out of all of that.

I would like to urge you folks, you and Mr. Edwards, on a State level, where you are finding difficulty in getting a better coordinated response, a better central response, or finding difficulty in reaching a central figure, to please let this committee know. And we will try our best to make certain that you are not running into that mess of redtape.

We welcome knowing how that is, what you are telling me is that you have made this response before, and knowing nothing has happened after the meetings, I would hope that you could keep this committee informed as to whether or not this has progressed and whether there has been some worthwhile reform come out of this kind of meeting with regard to getting information both up and down the ladder.

Mr. NURSEY. If I could close with one statement, this is only a personal opinion from a State representative. That is that in the future, rather than further fragmenting and diluting the authority and responsibility of the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration, I think perhaps his authority and responsibility probably ought to be consolidated and increased. And some of the things that are being fragmented to other areas maybe ought to be centralized into that individual's hands, because believe me, I think he is headed in the right direction as far as resolving the problems that currently exist.

Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you very much. Your points are well-taken. This gentleman right here wanted to make a statement.

Mr. LINDQUIST of Broward County. Detective sergeant, Pompano Beach. I think one of the things maybe the committee is not quite hearing is that we have a relationship with our local DEA and our local Customs office. And we do have meetings on a case-by-case basis with those people.

That doesn't exist with the Federal task force. I have had—I have been in this 3 years working narcotics. I have had one investigator from the task force to come and say, "I am going to be your liaison." He came in the office. He was there 15 minutes and that is the last I saw or heard from him.

Mr. GILMAN. I am sorry. What is your title?

Mr. LINDQUIST. Detective sergeant, Pompano Beach.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Mr. LINDQUIST. I can see that the Federal task force has a role as the major interdiction internationally coming into the country. I would like to see a change where we can get back to working with our local DEA and Customs office. They are the ones that are here. They are the ones we see every day. They have a problem working with the Federal task force. We have had cases where we made seizures, the Customs people have responded and they say don't ask us to do anything because if you do, we have to call the task force.

Your Federal people are saying that. And this is the part of the problem that I think we have to address.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you. Is there anyone else that has a statement—a law enforcement officer? Yes.

Mr. GABBARD of Palm Beach County. Captain, West Palm Beach Police Department. I am sitting here listening. I have become enlightened as to your position. I have read a lot about your task force. This is the first meeting I have come to. I am just wondering, have any members of the committee been involved in examining the Federal court system and its relationship to drug enforcement in Florida particularly, but I guess for that matter the entire United States?

I know in Florida we now have a tracking statute. We employ that very effectively, I think. Once we are able to get an individual within excess of 28 grams of cocaine or over 100 pounds of marijuana, we more often than that, with my department anyway, we are able to make deals with these people where they will give us the person they have gotten it from. And there is a chain reaction and we are able to work backwards up until we get to an area where we come—have to come in contact with the Federal authorities, would be DEA, FBI, Customs, or whatever.

And it seems to stop there. But my question to you is have you examined the possibility of a minimum, say, sentence or some other areas where the judicial system works for law enforcement?

Mr. LEWIS. Yes, sir. It was done both by this committee and the Judiciary Committee last year. They are still working on it. I don't believe you will find anyone on this committee—though there are only a few represented today—that are in opposition to that. I was responsible for some of the mandatory laws in the State of Florida; Congressman Gilman in the State of New York, when we were both in legislature.

We are looking at this just as well at the Federal level. This would be a responsibility under the Judiciary Committee and our information would be turned over to them in our reports for them to continue to work that out.

Mr. GABBARD. It is just obvious from talking to these people that we have come into contact with daily that they would prefer to serve in a Federal facility than in a State facility. They go up to Eglin and learn how to play tennis. That is a real problem. We work our behinds off trying to put these people in jail and we become involved with the Federal agency and the Federal agency makes the case, which has happened in the past.

And we have got them on a mandatory minimum situation, and 18 months later, after he is caught with 1,000 pounds of marijuana or whatever, he has learned how to play tennis. He is back out causing us more problems than he caused us prior to leaving.

Mr. LEWIS. States Attorney Marcus at our October hearing brought this out, on confiscated equipment and the need for additional Federal judges. We will continue to work in that area.

Any other comments before we wrap up this part of the session? Yes?

Mr. SAVINI of Sewall's Point Police Department. I support this last gentleman's statement wholeheartedly. I am concerned with the street officer. He gets out there. He does a job. He gives information and we in particular have no trouble with passing our information to Sheriff Holt. We have had good cooperation.

We have passed him some considerable information. About a year ago, he made a major bust arrest in Sewall's Point, a considerable quantity, about five or six loads went through before we were able to apprehend them. But what concerns the street officer is about a year later or 6 months after or right after the arrest, the subject is out on the street again and here he comes down the street in a Maserati or a Mercedes, drives into his million dollar home and the officer is out there and says, "What the hell is this all for?"

So I think the judicial system has to get involved in this. And they have to be aware of what we are going through on the street. I think part of it should be if a man is apprehended or people are apprehended and it is found to be that everything they have owned was acquired through narcotics, everything they own should be taken from them. Thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, sir.

Any other commments?

Mr. GILMAN. We are now beginning this past year to get into these forfeiture provisions that were recently adopted and are beginning to go after the assets of major traffickers and beginning to get to the homes, the jewels, the furs, the autos, and all of that business. So I think you are going to see a lot more of that now in the next year or two.

Mr. SAVINI. Also I hope once they get into this drug business and they acquire a fortune, they all of sudden become the pillars of the community in legal business. Their businesses should be taken away, too.

Mr. GILMAN. We are also digging into laundering of the funds as well. Yes, we do have to do a lot more in that direction, but we are beginning to get a little more cooperation than we have had in the past with our Treasury Department in starting to sort out some of these investments.

Mr. LEWIS. Yes, sir.

Chief MEYER of Broward County. Ted Meyer, chief of police, Pompano Beach. You mentioned the word, "forfeiture." Right away it ticked off a thought in my head. That is one of the problems in turfism. In the State of Florida there is a lot of competition as to the money we get back. Often you see a case of both planes or cash to be returned as opposed to the original objective.

I appreciate some of the comments that have come forth here about that issue. My good neighbor to the north, Chief Neal, found a car that really belonged to us with $1 million in the trunk. But that is all right. I am giving him a broken down boat in exchange.

The problem in addition to forfeiture of funds also has a lot in terms of developing intelligence and the maintaining of the Freedom of Information Act—the kind of information we have to maintain and analyze is somewhat limited. We are in fear of that sort of information getting free in the street.

To give you a very short war story, if I may, the county of Broward some years ago began, I believe, at the origination requests of the grand jury, investigating organized crime which is a strong element in narcotics. The Broward Chiefs Association formed a group, actually called it the Broward County Anti-Racketeering Unit.

It did not work. There was a lack of direction, a lack of objectives. The problem was they were looking for numbers in terms of the arrests. The grand jury subsequently came in and criticized the operation of that unit. Very often chiefs of police were putting people in there who were not qualified. They wanted to get them out of their whole unit.

Now there are a couple of organized crime operations going: one maintained by the Broward Sheriffs Association, the other is maintained by Fort Lauderdale State attorney and Pompano; basically because there is a philosophic difference about our approach to organized crime. Fort Lauderdale and Pompano are looking in a traditional sense because we are dealing with narcotics in another arena.

The issue of organized crime, traditionally, has been a joke in south Florida for a long time. So much so that one of the figures who has been looked at over the years touched me on the shoulder and introduced himself as, "Hey, Chief, I am Mr. Organized Crime." It is that much of a joke. They are not laughing anymore because I think the Broward Sheriffs Office and the Pompano-Fort Lauderdale unit are very serious about what we are after and it will be successful.

We have made some 106 contacts in the short time we have been in operation, in which we provided information to other agencies. What I hear is the word, "communication," bandied around. It is a shotgun effect—in terms of how we make commuications with other agencies. Many times we cannot get along at the local level.

There is no reason to believe we will be able to succeed on the Federal agencies. My experience has been that we have had very good cooperation at the administrative level and going down to the street level, there is good communication there. The officers in the street—they work very well in a cooperative venture.

We have problems associated with money, who is going to get the boat; who is going to get the credit? Director Nursey made an excellent point that when we go before our commissions, we have got to be able to justify our position and point out that we had a strong hand in actually making the arrest and that that was the original effort.

Also in the State of Florida there are controls built into how that money is spent once it is in the forfeiture fund.

Mr. GILMAN. If the gentleman will allow me to interrupt, how is that money spent? You have the million dollar seizure. What happens to that fund?

Chief MEYER. Chief Neal bought a new radio system, which is certainly very appropriate.

Mr. GILMAN. Do you have the discretion in your own agency to utilize those funds for law enforcement?

Chief MEYER. It goes into the city fund that is maintained by the police department. We, of course, go to our commission for approval. Very often, by law, of course, it has to be spent on new projects, new programs within the police department. We cannot use it essentially to replace old equipment that is there.

You could not buy 10 new cars, for example, if it is maintained properly.

Mr. GILMAN. Go ahead.

Chief MEYER. The point is those are valuable resources for us. At one time we have had in excess of half a million dollars to spend on police programs, some of the things not related necessarily to drug enforcement. But we have used the moneys to purchase equipment for our narcotics unit and—that have been very effective, special radio systems, in addition to other equipment.

So the point is from a budgetary standpoint—I think you mentioned the point about throwing money at a problem. We certainly cannot throw money at a problem. The fact that we are all getting together in a group may be effective. It works on our local level.

Our organized crime unit is making that information available.

Mr. GILMAN. Could I just ask you—getting back to the forfeiture turfism issue, how is that really affecting the coordinated effort? You can always resolve who the forfeiture funds go to. How does that affect their working together?

Chief MEYER. It is actually not that easy. We have an area——

Mr. GILMAN. Let me ask you this first: Who resolves the issue on forfeiture if two agencies conflict? Who makes that final resolution?

Chief MEYER. The circuit judge, when we go to court.

Mr. GILMAN. Federal circuit?

Chief MEYER. On the local level, the county level. When we make our presentation to the court, the other city does the same and then he decides which percentage of the funding or the money or the boat or whatever will go to which agency.

Mr. GILMAN. So then each agency tries to keep as close to the investigation because they are inclined to want as much as they can obtain out of the forfeiture.

Chief MEYER. Yes, it would appear so. And also it would have an impact on which case you take, whether you are going to go for the case that has the boats and planes or you are going after a street level dealer dealing in narcotics. And you may get a small amount of money from him.

Mr. GILMAN. Any suggestions how to overcome this problem?

Chief MEYER. One of the things, just sitting here and writing notes, I was considering financing from a different level. Perhaps the issue of highway funding, which hasn't had a lot of impact on the 55-mile-an-hour speed limit, but some States do have good reputations for maintaining that. That might very well apply in the sense of narcotic enforcement.

If we were to have money with specific objectives attached to results, that cities or States, counties would be responsible for apply-

ing for these grants, and you would have to see the results in order to get the money, that would probably somehow—and I have not thought it out fully—impact on our various city commissions and county commissions to work with us.

Mr. GILMAN. What about the forfeiture of funds going into a State treasury fund and then dealt out from that, is that what you are suggesting?

Chief MEYER. I am not suggesting that at all. I was looking for the Federal buck.

Mr. GILMAN. Perhaps that would overcome the provincial type of argument that you are all trying to protect your own little bailiwick, and make certain that most of the funds come into your own treasury if it could be handled at a State level.

Chief MEYER. I think there would be a disproportionate handing out of the funding. Obviously the cities that have the most contact with that kind of problem need that sort of revenue. Martin County recently had a case we were involved in. They did a fine job on wrapping that up. And we have been able to work along the coast.

We have one inlet we have to keep an eye on along with an airport. We obviously have a responsibility for maintaining that contact and liaison in that area, the control of the area. And we need the most money for it. It would not make sense to have our money dissipated throughout the State in areas that had less need for it.

Mr. GILMAN. How much by way of forfeiture funds did the Pompano Beach area receive in the last year?

Chief MEYER. We had approximately $150,000 in the last year. The highest figure I know we have had on hand at any one time is half a million.

Mr. GILMAN. And all of that was used by the police agency in Pompano Beach?

Chief MEYER. Half of it was used by the city commission in which they put it into our new building. So I guess it was police.

Mr. GILMAN. Sort of a new revenue sharing program.

Chief MEYER. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Chief MEYER. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS. The gentleman in the back, and then we will take a short break before we go on to the next subject.

Mr. HOPTON of Highlands County. Bob Hopton, lieutenant, chief investigator, Highlands County Sheriff's Department.

Most of the people that have been represented here this morning have been from the coastal areas. I think the central part of Florida needs some representation. We refer to it as the landing strip for the airplanes, which basically it is.

I would like to preface my comments by saying that my department has never been contacted by the Federal task force. The liaison that we do have with Federal agencies primarily is, our best relationship is with the FBI in Fort Pierce. I have received probably 10 times more intelligence information from the FBI in reference to narcotics, organized crime or anything else, from the FBI, because we do have a good relationship there.

I would say that—I would hope that our relationship with DEA, after a recent meeting 1 month ago, would improve. In the past 2

years we have had no contact with DEA. And I understand their problems; they have manpower problems just like everybody else. But the Drug Enforcement Administration that covers our area covers eight counties—and I know that Highlands County is 100 miles away—and they are spread thin. I understand their problems because we have the same ones ourselves. It is manpower, and dollars and cents.

I would suggest and recommend to this committee that we do improve communications, try to work together, that we do have a common problem. We have had specific incidents relating to current investigations which we feel that we were established in the back by whoever is responsible on the Federal level.

We have passed on information—and I personally, along with a Florida Department of Law Enforcement agent, made a trip to south Florida and passed on a large folder of information in reference to a narcotics smuggling case which is currently ongoing, and I cannot discuss details. That information was taken.

In return for that agents ended up in our county, without our knowledge, and ended up in a very poor incident, which I don't want to discuss details on that because it may lead to finding out what it was about. The incident was at the most very poor judgment on their part, very poor police work, caused danger not only to their agents but to whoever was in Highlands County, the citizens of Highlands County.

We feel this was very poor. After that incident occurred, we did have a meeting with the assistant director and——

Mr. GILMAN. Assistant director of what?

Mr. HOPTON. Earl Simmons of the task force, who I believe is now close to retirement, and Vince Mazzilli and Carter Oslieber of the Drug Enforcement Administration in West Palm.

Hopefully, our communications will improve from now on. Sheriff Wille made a point at the very beginning, and I find it very hard to believe that over 2 years the Federal Government and the Task Force has no intelligence information whatsoever that relates to Highlands County. Now, I know there have been tons and volumes of phone calls. There has to have been much information regarding persons in our area, possibly involved in narcotics smuggling, or any other criminal activity. I cannot remember any phone calls or any information being passed on to us, and I find that very hard to believe.

And when I have one FBI agent supplying me with 10 times the amount of information that all the other traditional drug enforcement agencies have passed on, I find that a difficult thing to believe; that there is not more information out there that could help us.

We have a tremendous problem out there. Fortunately, we have a very good working relationship with two Florida Department of Law Enforcement agents, and we have simply had to rely on our own. My investigators, myself, and the two agents have simply had to work the cases ourselves. We have had no contact, no help from anyone. The Task Force doesn't exist as far as we are concerned.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, sir. We appreciate your comments.

We are going to end this particular session of the discussions and go on to another one. But before that, Admiral Thompson, I would

like to ask if you would chair a group with Joe Corless, and with Bob Battard and Sam Billbrough and Bob Edwards, along with five to seven people we are going to pick from the local group here before the day is over? If you could get with them within the next week to 10 days to follow up on this communication thing and—I know everybody is involved, but using you as the chairman and coordinator to get this underway. Is that OK with you?

Admiral THOMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. LEWIS. All right. I appreciate that. We want to try to get a good cross section from north to south and east to west, of this part of Florida, to meet, and let us get this thing moving so that we have something working in the proper direction and hopefully we get a team working together in the areas we are talking about.

Mr. Gilman.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Lewis.

We are going to forgo the recess, since we are getting close to lunch. We are running behind. We will try to wrap this up within our time constraints.

We go on to topic No. 2 now on our conference schedule.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Gilman—I would like, with unanimous consent, to include the remarks of Congressman Clay Shaw from Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. GILMAN. Without objection.

[Congressman Shaw's remarks appear on p. 74.]

Conference No. 2, intelligence sharing between Federal, State, and local narcotics enforcement agencies in south Florida.

During our last visit to south Florida, some of our enforcement officials expressed concern over the lack of communication, and we certainly heard a great deal of it this morning. So let us get into this topic and see what we can do about improving it.

How should we assess the current sharing of narcotics enforcement intelligence and information between Federal and local enforcement units, is there equitability in the exchange of information between Federal and local narcotics units in southern Florida. Has the exchange of information between Federal and local enforcement units led to any joint investigations, to the exchange of personnel for undercover investigations. Should a formal mechanism be established to assure narcotic intelligence sharing between Federal and local law enforcement units in south Florida. And what legal and/or institutional impediments exist to a freer exchange of narcotics intelligence and information between Federal and local enforcement agencies.

We have already had some of that discussion. But let us dig in a little more and see what we can do to improve some of these areas.

Mr. GILMAN. Sheriff Holt, would you like to start off in this direction and give us some of your thinking and then we will open it up.

Mr. HOLT. Yes. Thanks again, Mr. Chairman.

One thing I would like to know, who do we go to? Should we go to DEA, to the FBI? Should we go to the admiral now? Where do we go?

Mr. GILMAN. To pass on information?

Mr. HOLT. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. Admiral Thompson, do you want to respond to that?

Admiral THOMPSON. Pass it on through the contacts you have locally—DEA, Customs. If you want to get the information into the Federal system, pass it through the Federal agents.

Mr. HOLT. Continue the way we have been?

Admiral THOMPSON. We are not trying to start another dual track or add more confusion. If you have dialog now, with your local DEA or Customs, Coast Guard, FBI, then continue with that. That is my recommendation.

Mr. HOLT. That is a big help. If there would be anything you gentlemen could do to get us a couple of more DEA or Customs agents in the local area, that would be a big help. As I say, we have worked joint cases with each. In the past, we have run on some information that one agent has passed, it is supposed to be another agent's information, and we get a conflict between the two agents. I just need to know where to go. Probably at this point I will go to DEA, but they are scattered mighty thin.

Mr. GILMAN. Can we have the DEA man in charge for this region stand a moment?

Could you go over to the mike.

Mr. Billbrough, the sheriff has a problem where to go. Suppose they pass on some information to your agent. Are you comfortable in passing it on to the other agents that need that information, or is there a blockage of any kind? Where should the officials go when they have some problem and some information that they want passed on in a hurry so that it gets shared by all of the appropriate agents?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Sir, my answer is the same as Admiral Thompson's. They should pass it on to the agent they are comfortable with. If it is interdiction-type of information, we will try to get it quickly to Customs and the Coast Guard, which is specifically responsible for it. If it is investigative information, DEA will attempt to work that.

Mr. GILMAN. And where in the DEA should they be reporting the information? What office?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. I think they should report the information to the office which serves the geographic area. In Fort Lauderdale, for those in Broward County. In this particular geographic area, to the West Palm Beach office. And there may be a few municipalities that would be served by the Orlando office.

Mr. GILMAN. And there is no problem with your office getting it to the appropriate agencies if it should be passed on to the other agents?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. No problem whatsoever. I would like to comment just a little bit further about the intelligence issue.

The combined Federal agents have an intelligence center in El Paso, TX, that is staffed by a total of, as I recall, 140 Federal employees. There is substantial computerized information, including DEA's computer system, the TEC system, FAA system, and so forth. The established procedure for municipalities, if they want hard copy or more extensive information from these files, they can either go directly to the local DEA office or they can go, as I understand it, Director Edwards, by teletype through the FDLE system

to EPIC, and then they will receive hard copy information back or be referred to an appropriate DEA office.

So the DEA files substantially are open to other agents. The exception probably is if DEA is actively working a case, then the information will come back, contact the West Palm Beach office or contact the Lauderdale office to see if we can get the thing coordinated rather than simply to provide information, for example, that there are undercover agents involved or informants involved and so forth.

Mr. GILMAN. Then there is good two-way traffic between EPIC and local officials?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Well, after listening to the conversation here, I think we must have a ways to go. It is quite evident to me that the coordination isn't as good as it should be and we are going to have to work more.

Mr. GILMAN. Suppose the local chief, or detective at the head of a narcotics unit, has some information he wants to pass on to EPIC and get feedback. What is the quickest and best way to do that?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. It is to contact his local office or go through the FDLE system to EPIC.

Mr. GILMAN. He will get a quick response?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Well, I think it is probably better to ask the people who are being served by that system that question. It is my understanding that it is available to them, and that the response is quite rapid. EPIC is around-the-clock operation. My best information is that the system exists and it is working, upon request. Now, I would suspect perhaps it has been some time since this has been circulated. There are probably individuals here not familiar with it.

Mr. GILMAN. What has DEA done to help familiarize them with EPIC?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Well, I think at the time the system was established, there was substantial communication, letters and so forth.

Mr. GILMAN. How long ago was that?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. I cannot say when Florida was cut into it. Director Edwards might know. I would presume 3, 4, 5 years.

Mr. GILMAN. Is Director Edwards still in the room?

Mr. Edwards, do you have good two-way communication with EPIC and do you help your local people get whatever information they need?

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes, we do. We have a continuous—what we do in our training of the agents in the State of Florida is to ensure they get both the local-State information as well as the Federals. They come through the Florida Intelligence Center. We have a direct link to the El Paso Intelligence Center. That is a tactical center designed to give rapid response. We are talking maximum hours.

Mr. GILMAN. You have had no complaints about the two-way communication out of EPIC?

Mr. EDWARDS. Well, I think the two-way communication, it is an inquiry type of information system. It is designed to inquire on a particular person, airplane, vehicle, and get information directly back related to that. They do have the ability, as does the State of Florida, to where you can target individuals or you can flag individuals or organizations in which if any inquiry is made, that infor-

mation then is generated back to the locals through a targeting mechanism. But it is more selective and more secure than the general information exchange.

Mr. GILMAN. To answer Sheriff Holt's inquiry, if he has some intelligence to pass on, can it go through your office and get into EPIC in a hurry?

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes. We would hope the information would be forwarded to us. We would maintain it in the Florida Intelligence Center [FIC]. And if the sheriff requested it be forwarded to the Federal system, it is done automatically.

Mr. GILMAN. What have you done to communicate that request to have information forwarded to you? Have you made that known to your local agents recently?

Mr. EDWARDS. That is part of our training package. We have a person assigned full time to do training around the State. That individual does include that as part of the manual and the package we work with.

Mr. GILMAN. Let me toss it open to the whole floor here.

Is anyone having a problem getting information in or out?

Mr. HOLT of Martin County. Yes, especially at night. Am I understanding that you do still man FIC 24 hours a day?

Mr. EDWARDS. We have an on-call person. We don't have available onsite? If you call into the center, we will have them there in a matter of 30 minutes at the most.

Mr. HOLT. Am I the only one in the room having trouble getting something out of FIC or do we have somebody else here having problems?

Mr. GILMAN. Let me understand something. At night, when they make a call-in, does someone answer that phone and then you have to call someone to come in and dig out the information?

Mr. EDWARDS. We have a person on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in which they can call in. The actual search of the files, and the information workup is done on a call-in basis, after hours. We maintain the center up until 10 at night. The reason we cut back, we started out with the center being maintained 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, but the volume of inquiries was such that we needed the people during our peak time. We changed it based on volume. If the volume picks back up, we are prepared to go back 24 hours a day.

Mr. GILMAN. You just want the traffickers to do their business during the day hours.

Mr. EDWARDS. If the person calls in, we do have a callup person that would come in and do the workup on it.

Mr. HOLT. That is why I was asking—because I have been referred to get back the following day. About the second time of that, we quit going to FIC and started going to our local DEA. We got one guy that will work with us. We call him at his home. He will run it in and get back to us. A lot of times we need something at night. We don't want to wait until the next day to get this information back. This is why we did start going to the local DEA.

Mr. EDWARDS. It sounds like we have a training problem.

Mr. GILMAN. Can they go direct, instead of going through the local State office, to get some information out of EPIC?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. They can go to the local DEA office. If it is nighttime and an urgent need, they would have to call the Miami office, which is manned around the clock.

Mr. GILMAN. In Miami, you can get them an immediate answer.

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Yes. Probably the best number would be 591-4970, which is a communication center in Miami.

Mr. GILMAN. That is around the clock?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. That is correct.

Mr. GILMAN. They can get an immediate response out of EPIC?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. It would still be better to contact a local agent.

Mr. GILMAN. They have a delay problem at night hours, apparently.

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Well, our system, of course, is open then. Our problem is that if we receive telephone calls at that number, we have to be certain who we are speaking to. So that is why it would be better to have the home numbers. And I think that is pretty much the system here in West Palm—the sheriff's people, for example, I know would contact Carter at his home, and he would go ahead and use the telephone to get the answers.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Edwards, I hope maybe the State, too, could work up that night problem, so they don't have to wait until the next day to get a response.

Mr. EDWARDS. That will be corrected immediately. I will get together with the sheriff on that.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

All right. We are open for discussion on any of these topics now.

Mr. JOHN MURPHY of Martin County. I have just one. In all fairness to FIC, I thought it started off with a good situation. I think maybe you took on responsibilities on other duties. I think FIC has went down. I have seen a lot of good projects we got started. I would like to see the possibility that maybe an officer in charge of, say, vice, in each agency within the State of Florida be trusted enough that he could have access to EPIC in case there was an agent—because you call the Miami office, they are going to refer you back to a local agent, is what is going to happen.

You cannot verify who you are on the phone, and that would be a problem. What is the problem with getting designated—getting a security clearance from the officer in charge from each vice or narcotics department in the State and give him access to EPIC at night? Is there a problem with that?

Mr. EDWARDS. I think your point is valid. We have given that opportunity to each of the administrators, the chief administrators. The sheriff or the chief of police can make the decision as to who will be the contact point. They provide that information back to the Florida Intelligence Center, and then we maintain that on file. We can, through information verification, based on certain checks, determine that you are talking to who you think you are, and that is maintained. That is a local decision that is made by the chief administrator.

Mr. JOHN MURPHY. Again, you are talking about FININ.

Mr. EDWARDS. But the point I am making—FININ is no longer because we have expanded providing other crime specifics. The same people work in that area. I think the response time you will find has decreased instead of increased. We have a better response

than we ever had in the past. You get more information. You now have access to a modus operandi file and a lot of other things I won't get into today, but if you call in and you want to go to El Paso, and the information is processed through, and if the sheriff says that you are one of the people on the list that has access to that system, it is instantaneous, it immediately goes.

Mr. JOHN MURPHY. In other words, we call directly into EPIC?

Mr. EDWARDS. Through the center, not directly, and then out. It is coordinated through us, but you get not only the El Paso information——

Mr. JOHN MURPHY. Like you say, you close at 10 o'clock at night.

Mr. EDWARDS. We can get you that. If you call anytime, we will get you a response. We have people on call. That number is maintained 24 hours a day. We have on call people that will be at the office within 15 to 20 minutes answering your response.

Mr. GILMAN. And they can definitely get a response that same night, so you don't run into what Sheriff Holt is talking about—"Call back in the morning."

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes. I think we have that.

Sheriff, I will have to get together with you on that. I believe we have that capability now.

Mr. GILMAN. I would hope you check that out for us.

Mr. EDWARDS. I definitely will.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Battard from Customs.

Bob, can you tell us your availability for information if any of these gentlemen need you fellows in the middle of the night?

Mr. BATTARD. Yes. We, like DEA, have a sector communications center that covers most of the region, certainly all of Florida, that is open 24 hours a day.

Mr. GILMAN. Where is that?

Mr. BATTARD. It is Miami; 350-5132.

Mr. GILMAN. Twenty-four-hour service?

Mr. BATTARD. Twenty-four-hour service.

Mr. GILMAN. You give them intelligence on shipping and that sort of thing if they need it?

Mr. BATTARD. Yes. They have access, sector communications has access to all of our computer systems.

Mr. GILMAN. Any other kind of service that would be helpful to them that you fellows make available?

Mr. BATTARD. I think basically, what I have heard here and what I have always believed, is that there is a lot of day-to-day relationships that go on, and a lot of the data is gathered beforehand, before a case actually goes down. And I think the biggest problem that I have heard, and it is a problem ever since I have been here, which is over 6 years, I think a lot of people believe that when we interdict an aircraft, regardless of where we interdict it, we know where it is going down. And that is just not the case.

The case seems to be in the last couple of years that whether or not they know we have detected them, they are taking evasive action and evasive routes. Our standard operating procedure in a sector is that if the pilot thinks at any point in the chase that the plane is going down in a particular area, sector automatically starts calling the patrol, the sheriff's office, sometimes the Florida

Highway Patrol to alert them we think the plane is going down in that area.

As I review the sector logs most mornings is we have often called them out in the middle of the night only to have to say he is not landing there. In fact, I have seen cases where we have called them out two or three times, because the individual is circling all around Florida, and gives an indication that he is going to go down, and he doesn't. But it is not until he just about touches ground that we know exactly what airport he is going in. What has happened in the last 1½ years is that approximately—and the Admiral can verify this—approximately 70 to 75 percent of all the aircraft we are interdicting are making airdrops around the Bahamas, and they are not coming into Florida. And that is a different problem.

That becomes a marine interdiction problem now. But I don't think there is any intent not to tell the locals that we know a plane is coming in, because we are really dependent, most of the busts that are made as a result of an air interdiction are the locals being on scene when the plane lands, because we just don't have the resources. At one point we operated with Cobra helicopters which allowed us to carry only one individual. And he had a hard time getting out. We do have the Blackhawk now, which if we had more personnel we would carry more, but they are carrying a limited number. But that is quite difficult to get the Blackhawk in.

I have seen cases where we have involved three or four aircraft before we bring the guy to the ground. But our standard operating procedure is if you have any indication he is going into a particular county or airport to call the locals, and the reason we do that is they certainly know the roads and can get out there a lot faster. I don't know of any case that has ever come to my attention where we tried to make the case without calling.

Mr. GILMAN. A gentleman has a question back here.

Mr. DURKIS. Bob Durkis, sheriff, Hendry County.

We had an incident about March of 1983, where I received a telephone call at home from my station, that Customs had followed a plane in over Fort Myers and had landed and made an arrest. It took me approximately 1 hour, communicating from my home to Miami, to get them to tell me where that plane was seized. And the first information I received from the Miami Control Center was, well, our Customs people have made the arrest, we don't need you. And the first thing I am thinking about, I am the sheriff of that county, I would like to be there, and second, nothing was ever mentioned about the possibility of an offload crew that my people could have possibly intercepted on the ground.

It was after 1 hour's worth of dickering over the phone that I finally received a phone call that if I go to the local airport I would be flown out there by your chopper, and I thought that was pretty bad.

Mr. BATTARD. I agree. It shouldn't have happened.

Mr. GILMAN. I appreciate your comment. I hope you give that some attention, too, along the way.

Anyone want to address any questions too our Customs or DEA gentlemen with regard to intelligence, or to the task force or the NNBIS gentlemen?

Any further questions he might want to raise about the problem of sharing of intelligence?

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Gilman, before Bob sits down, I would like to ask him—there has been a lot of conversation both in Washington and locally over the past several months—are the financial problems now resolved basically with the Customs Department, so you will not lose the $28 million?

Mr. BATTARD. Yes, most of that involves our air interdiction program, and it is centered around approximately $11 million that we need to maintain the aircraft that is on loan from the military. I sat up in hearings in Washington for a couple of days. I think it revolved around whether the Department of Defense or the Department of Treasury was going to pay that. And it is my understanding that the information I have received back is, Treasury is reprogramming out of Treasury into the air program to pay that maintenance.

So right now our air program is funded throughout the rest of the year.

Mr. LEWIS. One other question.

Mr. GILMAN. Excuse me. That equipment is on loan to you by the military?

Mr. BATTARD. Yes. The Blackhawk helicopters are on loan to us and the Cobra helicopters.

Mr. GILMAN. And the military is not maintaining the equipment, is that correct?

Mr. BATTARD. There is a bill for maintenance. We were hoping they would pick it up.

Mr. GILMAN. Who does the maintenance?

Mr. BATTARD. We do it under their supervision.

Mr. GILMAN. They supervise the maintenance and you have to actually do it and pay for it?

Mr. BATTARD. Right, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS. And do you feel there is a tougher problem with Customs and any other groups like DEA or Coast Guard or anyone else as far as who is doing what, as far as the Federal area is concerned in drug interdiction?

Mr. BATTARD. I honestly have to say, Mr. Lewis, I don't think the cooperation has ever been better. It is particularly true throughout Florida and the Southeast, because there is so much activity that we have all got more than we can handle. I see from my perspective a definite sharing of resources and information especially at the working level. I think you will find that true in the relationships between the locals and the Feds. At the street level and the working level, where we do have personnel stationed, there is good working relationships. And I think it is better now than it has ever been, partly by our people now being permanently staffed.

Some of the problems you heard this morning was when the Florida joint task force first came into being, and I know Customs alone had in excess of 200 people, the idea here, and they were not familiar with the area, and there were some mistakes made. But our people now are permanently assigned. They are stationed throughout the Keys out into Tampa, Fort Myers, and Jacksonville area. But I think the cooperation is the best it has ever been.

Mr. GILMAN. Would the gentleman yield.

Have you found some definite improvement as a result of NNBIS and the task force in coordination and cooperation? Has there been some improvement because of these two elements working?

Mr. BATTARD. The task force has definitely been advantageous to us, because there was a time when Customs seizures could not be addressed for investigative purposes. DEA did not have the manpower to respond to a lot of the cases that we had. The Florida joint task force, in bringing in the additional investigators, has created an environment where they are responding to most of the cases in south Florida and allowing the DEA offices in the rest of Florida to respond to the other cases.

So we find responsiveness to seizures for investigative purposes 100-percent improved.

Mr. GILMAN. What about NNBIS? Has that benefited the overall activity and effectiveness?

Mr. BATTARD. We look at NNBIS more as a coordinating body. We have put resources into NNBIS, both for intelligence purposes and making our resources available to a problem that they identify. To this point in time, it has mostly involved us taking some of our air resources and positioning them in an area that NNBIS has identified itself for a particular case or for a particular threat. As a coordinating body, it has worked very well.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Bob.

Mr. GILMAN. Are there any other questions or anyone else want to make a statement on this issue of intelligence gathering and exchange, and how to make it more effective?

Mr. MURPHY. I was going to ask a question.

Is there a problem with your agent notifying us and let us determine, if the plane doesn't land, we don't mind going out and sitting in the woods and feeding a few mosquitoes, if you guys pass this information on. If it is coming over, let us decide. If it does happen to land, we could do something with it rather than wait until it lands and the ground crew gets away; an airdrop, which we have a lot of them. I don't see any problem on our part.

Personally, we have men out there at night, working agriculture. We might be right in a particular area, to be able to observe the aircraft.

Mr. GILMAN. Bob, do you see any problem about notifying him?

Mr. BATTARD. I would hope every sheriff doesn't ask for that, because the pilots would be in constant communication with ground forces as they are passing back and forth over Florida.

Mr. LEWIS. Isn't it true you do have an arc through Florida where generally speaking the majority of these aircraft will be running out of fuel or close to running out of fuel, and they are the key counties as far as you are concerned. I recognize some of them have additional tanks, and some of them land and refuel. But how about the general area through the Martin-Highlands County area, as you draw that arc, where they just about run out of fuel.

Mr. BATTARD. That corridor is a little more extensive than that, Mr. Lewis.

I will talk to the air branch director and see if we can set up some system.

Mr. GILMAN. Some sort of warning system to put them on notice.

Mr. LEWIS. This is the thing I guess I brought up to Mr. Edwards earlier. FDLE set up a communications network through east-west central Florida for this specific purpose.

Now, why aren't they keyed in with everyone else as far as an early warning system so there is a possibility these aircraft are going to pass over or set down in your general area.

True, they may go out and sit out there. They don't want to sit out there all night, but at the same time, if they can cover their county within 20 minutes, the other sheriffs can do the same thing. And you pretty well have the area covered. I just don't understand why with the FDLE and with what you have, you could not keep the communication lines open there.

Isn't that true, Bob? Don't you have the network set up now?

That was the purpose of setting it up. So the State has a leg and you have a leg and we have two legs that can run in one direction and the other.

Mr. BATTARD. Maybe we can speak to Mr. Edwards about alerting FDLE every time an aircraft penetrates Florida. We don't ever alert our own officers.

Mr. LEWIS. I don't think the lieutenant is asking every time a plane penetrates Florida. The area I am talking about is if the general location is going to pass over the east coast, is it going to pass over Martin County or Highlands County, those sheriffs would want to know that. And you know—if it changes course to evade, certainly they would want to be notified. I don't think they want to know every airplane that is coming over.

Mr. BATTARD. I have seen much communication on a single chase where we have called three or four different sheriffs' offices out, on a single case, and after had to call them off and thank them, and call them back. I think a lot of that is being done. But just because he is passing over a particular area, alerting the sheriff's department, we have not done that. Unless we have some indication he is going to land somewhere.

Mr. GILMAN. Sergeant Savini.

Mr. SAVINI of Martin County. Lou Savini, Sewall's Point.

About a month ago I received information from one of our local residents that he actually watched two airdrops, two weeks in succession. I am in support of Lieutenant Murphy. I know they are out there every night. I hear them on the radio. I communicate with his narcotics staff. We did work something out. They did watch the area for a period of time, but apparently to no successs, up until this time anyway. But I support Lieutenant Murphy's request. I think had they known that plane was coming over our area, it was actually dropped in the intercoastal waterway.

There were three boats observed. The drop lasted about 10 minutes, and the boats sped away. So I think——

Mr. GILMAN. That is because of a lack of information.

Mr. SAVINI. I think if Lieutenant Murphy received information, there was a low-flying aircraft coming over, or at least Customs advised him there was an aircraft in the area—they are out there every night. The Martin County Sheriff's Office are out there every night, communicating with other agents in the jurisdiction. We have a rapport, we could communicate with one another. We work

on the street level with their officers. I think we could prevent a lot of this problem.

Mr. BATTARD. May I respond to that?

I think there is an assumption here that we know about every aircraft that penetrates, and we know about every airdrop. If we are watching one side of the corridor, we are probably missing the other. But we know of instances where airdrops have been reported to us the next day by the locals.

As I said, in excess of 70 percent, 75 are now making the airdrops by the Bahamas. It is rare indeed that we are tracking an aircraft over the coast—the east coast of Florida. We are picking up some on the west coast now. But we may not have been aware of that. Again, I can only go from the information that is available to me. The sector log seems to be the best record of communications that took place that night. Whenever an airdrop takes place over Florida, the first thing I see is a bulletin being issued with the coordinates, so you can go out there and find it.

We have some success with that, but this is an issuance with the coordinates of where the airdrop took place. And I know bags of cocaine, double bags of cocaine have been found all over the State of Florida, and in many instances by the locals.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Battard, what about the airdrops in the Bahamas? How is that being picked up? What is the routing of that?

Mr. BATTARD. Being picked up by small boats, some going back to the Bahamas and staging, others making a run at us directly. We try to get DEA's BAT operation in the Bahamas alerted as soon as we see this. They do have an operation over there with two helicopters. Our pilots contact them as soon as possible. Because in most instances they are going back to the Bahamas. There have been a lot of apprehensions made there.

In the cases where they started heading toward our shores, we are alerting the Coast Guard and the Customs patrol. I have to say here in talking about cooperation with the locals, we cannot say enough about the Florida Marine Patrol. They are probably the top unit in terms of having the resources and the desire to really work with our guys. There is so much work being done with the Florida Marine Patrol, sometimes you don't know what officers are on what boats. You could have a Customs boat pull up with a Florida marine officer and a Customs officer or vice versa.

I would say in most cases it is staging somewhere in the Bahamas, to make a run at us at a certain time. In a smaller number of cases, they are picking up a load and running it to the United States right away.

Mr. GILMAN. Admiral Thompson, this Bahamas operation comes, a lot of that under your task for, NNBIS. Are you finding your joint efforts are working out quite well in trying to interdict the Bahamas trafficking?

Admiral THOMPSON. We are going as good as we can with what we have. One of the things that the NNBIS and the task force is trying to bring into the game is Department of Defense resources. At a given night, you will have Customs out, Navy aircraft, Marine Corps, chasing some of the fast boats. We have a history of cases here the Customs Service, Florida Marine Patrol, the Coast Guard, some of the local jurisdictions work with the Department of De-

fense resources in the area. To the extent that we know they are coming or can develop that kind of information out of the Bahamas, then we try to set up and catch them when they come across.

Unfortunately, the distances are pretty short, the speed of the boat is high. So we don't have a lot of advance information. But we are running at random hours, trying to establish just what the patterns are for the traffickers. When we do establish what the patterns are, they change them. But it is not for lack of trying in terms of putting enough resources in. What I am hearing this morning is that perhaps we need a little bit more coordination with some of those jurisdictions that have boats and assets.

We are aware of them—as Mr. Battard said, sector and Customs and our intelligence, our operations center at NNBIS, tries to contact the local jurisdictions. Wherever we think we can cut them off.

Mr. GILMAN. That operations center is a 24-hour center?

Admiral THOMPSON. Our interdictions operation center is a 24-hour center, as is Custom's sector and Custom's air support.

Mr. GILMAN. Are you having any problem with getting defense agencies involved in all of this?

Admiral THOMPSON. We task them to the extent that we can use their resources, and they respond with what they have available. Of course, the constraint on the operation is that it doesn't detract from their readiness and their military preparedness operations, but when we get them on board with us, they do a great job. We have been able to improve the communications between DOD aircraft and Customs and Coast Guard aircraft from time to time, but mostly for the air problem we are talking about Customs, DEA in the Bahamas, and whatever DOD we can get into the game.

Mr. GILMAN. With the shift to the Bahamas, do you see any particular needs where Congress can be of help to you?

Admiral THOMPSON. I wouldn't categorize it as a new shift. I think we are seeing an increase in the drops over in the Bahamas bank and some of the stashing of the contraband over there. We can always use more surveillance. That is where we are deficient and trying to get more DOD support.

Mr. GILMAN. Would this new balloon concept be of help?

Admiral THOMPSON. Yes. As you know, there is an aerostat now up at Canaveral, one down in Cudjoe Key. There is a possibility of having a third one in the Bahamas, which would have look-down capability, which would increase our early warning system.

Recently, we have experimented with a tethered aerostat on a vessel out in some of the choke points. Again, that was looking at the mother ship operation, but we would hope that perhaps it could also lend itself to the air problem.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Admiral.

Yes?

Chief WALKER of Palm Beach County. Frank Walker, chief of police, Riviera Beach, FL. We have the Port of Palm Beach in my city, numerous docks and fish houses. My concern is that in the past couple of months I have been here, I have noticed a couple of operations that took place where we were not contacted by Customs. Arrests were made.

I would like to see, because we have those facilities in the area, were contact with Customs. We have a pretty good working rela-

tionship with Customs as far as I can see now. But I would really like to see more contact and advance notice when the arrests are going to be made in our city.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Walker.

Any other comments by anyone? Any other questions you want to raise on this issue before we wrap it up? If there are no further questions on this issue——

Mr. LEWIS. I would like you to think a little bit—there has been some problems as far as radio frequencies for a lot of local sheriffs and city police departments. Think about that a little bit and we do hope to terminate the conference for today around 3 o'clock.

Mr. GILMAN. Since we are running a little over on each of the issues, I am going to suggest we get back here at 12:45.

The committee will stand in recess until 12:45.

[Whereupon, at 11:45 a.m., the committee was recessed, to reconvene at 12:45 p.m., the same day.]

AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. GILMAN. Ladies and gentlemen, if you would please take your seats, we will get underway.

The select committee will now come to order.

We are now ready for our third conference discussion, "Resource Sharing Between Federal, State, and Local Narcotics Enforcement Agents in South Florida."

If you will note, the topics that we would like to get into is how would you assess the current sharing of resources between Federal and local narcotics enforcement agents in south Florida. What commitment of resources is most needed by local narcotics enforcement agents in south Florida, including direct Federal assistance, use of equipment, compensation assistance for overtime pay, use of seized and forfeited assets in enforcement activities, wiretaps, electronic surveillance and other types of technical assistance; would the narcotics enforcement effort in south Florida benefit from the establishment of a Federal, State, and local resource pool that would attempt to make resources available on an as-needed basis to local enforcement agents in south Florida; and lastly, should there be a more equitable sharing of the narcotics caseload between Federal and State jurisdictions?

And I know that a number of these issues are a great concern to many of you. We had a good discussion at lunch about some of these. I would like to hear some of these out on the table today. I hope that as a result of our discussions that they will be mutually beneficial, beneficial to you in the local organizations, beneficial to the State people, most important to our committee, beneficial to those on the Federal level who are trying to work up a proper approach to these problems.

So without further ado, let's get into this discussion. Both Mr. Lewis and I are chairing this last discussion. We will try to wrap up at an early hour for you because I know many of you are anxious to get back to your own duties.

So who would like to kick off some discussion on this, the sharing of resources?

I would like to ask Admiral Thompson, if I could, to help us out a little bit.

Admiral, there has been a great deal of concern about the credit sharing. Local officials work up a case, then they see there is a need for some assistance; they call in the Feds. Before they know it, the Feds take over, and the locals are in the background, and all of the credit goes to the Federal agents. They have gotten another score on their sheets, and the local police, who have worked up the case initially and spent a lot of time and effort, are out in the cold looking in.

What can we do to perfect this system so there is a better sharing of credit for the work that is done because they have to report to their superiors, to their constituents, to their taxpayers, just as our Federal people have to report to their administrators? And it seems to me that is a fair complaint that we ought to be able to resolve.

Admiral THOMPSON. Mr. Gilman, I don't know too many details or too many specifics on these. I would like to hear from the experience of the folks that are here today, perhaps some sample cases of that. And maybe we could come up with some conclusions as to how to prevent it.

I can tell you that the South Florida task force and NNBIS don't make any press releases. The seizing agency rule applies. If Customs makes a seizure, they make the press release on the Federal level. The same with DEA and FBI.

Mr. GILMAN. To extend it further—Admiral, when they do work up a case, and they are almost ready for going in to make the arrest, and they see they need, for example, some Coast Guard assistance, offshore, or coming into a channel, and the Coast Guard boards a vessel, then they lose the forfeiture of any of those assets to the Federal agent, even though they may have done all the preparation work. What do we do about sharing the resources?

Admiral THOMPSON. They don't necessarily have to lose the seized assets. That can be arranged. And perhaps we need to have a little bit better coordination and cooperation on this score.

Mr. GILMAN. I think they would welcome some information about that, Admiral, and any suggestions you can make about that because I have heard that on a number of occasions this morning and at lunchtime, that there is a real concern about losing the assets once they have made all of the workup and the investigation and prepared for the arrest—suddenly they see the assets go out the window to a Federal agent, and it takes the wind out of their sails, and they lose a great deal of incentive of trying to work together.

Admiral THOMPSON. Yes. I can understand that. Perhaps if we can have some examples it might be useful.

Mr. GILMAN. All right.

Anyone have some thoughts about this loss of assets that might be able to point it out to Admiral Thompson who is supposed to wind up and resolve some of these problems for you?

Yes, in the back row.

Mr. HOPTON of Highlands County. Lieutenant Hopton, Highlands County.

We have just recently seized an aircraft in connection with the State Department of Law Enforcement, and it was a joint seizure wherein we share the proceeds of that forfeiture. It was done by agreement and through the State Department of Law Enforcement attorneys, and it was just simply on the aircraft registration, fictitious registration law, and the aircraft—as a matter of fact, as of today—will be forfeited to the sheriff of Highlands County, and the proceeds of that sale of that aircraft will be divided equitably between the Department of Law Enforcement and the Highlands County Sheriff's Department.

Is there a possibility that a similar type arrangement may be worked out where not one agency alone is getting the proceeds—where at least there would be sharing in some respect?

Mr. GILMAN. Can we hear from our DEA representative.

Sam, would you comment on that, please, and then I will ask our Customs representative to comment.

Bob, maybe you want to take the other mike in the meantime.

Mr. BILLBROUGH. DEA frequently is able to share the assets. We have a joint State and local task force in Orlando, and we have a working arrangement with the sheriffs that are involved, and the police officers involved up there that—we have had a problem with automobiles, so they have allowed us to have some choice of automobiles which we will put into service on cash—it has to go to the U.S. Treasury; it doesn't go to DEA. Ordinarily we allow them to do that. There are a few legal problems. I understand there is legislation pending, but we frequently—and Vinny tells me he has additional examples here which might be more directly applicable to this group. But we do share assets.

Mr. GILMAN. Vinny, would you care to share some of that information?

Mr. MAZZILLI. Yes. It has been my policy since I have been up in West Palm Beach, and I understand the policy of my predecessor, that on all occasions possible, we will allow the local authorities to keep assets that are seized in our investigations, in joint investigations. Examples of that would be some of the sting cases we have worked on with the sheriff's office. Prior to working the case, we make arrangements with the sheriff's office for them to keep whatever moneys are seized. We may have a specific desire or a need for an automobile or a special purpose vehicle, like a truck or a four-wheel drive vehicle. Those things are usually ironed out very amicably between the sheriff's office and ourselves, and whatever other police department we are working with.

So I don't see that we at—least up at West Palm Beach, as far as DEA and the people we work with—have a problem in that area.

Mr. GILMAN. So there is no major problem in working something out beforehand.

Mr. MAZZILLI. No, not according to what we have done in the past, and not what we intend to do in the future.

Mr. LEWIS. And, Bob, of Customs.

Mr. BATTARD. Yes, we have a written policy that is generally based on where the prosecution takes place. If it is prosecuted at the State level, the conveyance goes to the locals who participated with us in the seizure. We even have grounds for some deviation there. I think in the last couple of months, if we have a representa-

tive here from Monterey County, they can attest to the fact that they have picked up quite a few conveyances recently.

We are also interested in the conveyances, as you could well understand. There is a provision now in Federal law which allows us to trade in seized aircraft or seized vessels to get the type of aircraft or the type of vessel we need. But we have been basically in agreement that has been in effect since 1981, turning the conveyance over to the locals, where the prosecution takes place at the State or local level.

Mr. LEWIS. Are you saying to us you can pretty much do what DEA is doing, that you can work out an arrangement beforehand with the local officials?

Mr. BATTARD. Yes, we have a written policy. The key for us is that we have to know beforehand basically what area, how we are going to handle that conveyance, because once we seize it, we don't have the authority to turn it over to the locals. So our procedure is to detain it, and then allow the locals to seize it.

Mr. LEWIS. Do any of you local officials here have any questions with regard to this because some of you raised that before?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Part of the problem is sometimes we in Florida are ahead of everyone else in the country. We have so much experience in this area, we are able to implement certain of these procedures ahead of other offices. I might also say I was negligent—DEA is using a boat turned over to us by Sheriff Holt of Martin County.

Mr. LEWIS. Would the gentleman yield.

I am not sure I am hearing really what is happening. I would like a show of hands in here from the locals. How many of you feel you are getting a fair shake with the forfeited assets

In other words, you feel that you are getting a fair shake of the seized and forfeited assets? How long does it take for you to get them?

Mr. GILMAN. Sheriff Holt.

Mr. HOLT of Martin County. First, if I could back up to when the task force was first formed, I think this got a lot of us off on a bad foot here. Our local Customs and DEA told us now we come under the South Florida Task Force.

Anything that is seized will be taken to Homestead. Admiral, this, I think, was before you. Probably you didn't even know anything about it.

At this time the locals said, wait a minute, and we backed off at that point. This, I think, got all of us off on a bad foot with task force going in. Although now it is not this way. I do not do sting operations in our county.

But as far as seizing of equipment, if it is a joint, we usually split beforehand or it is at the time of seizure. We sit down then with whatever agency, whether it is another local or Federal and divide it up at that point, who is going to take what and how it can be done.

Like they say, if they go through forfeiture at the Federal level, there is no way we are going to get anything back there. If we go ahead and initiate State forfeiture and get it locally forfeited, then I can turn over to them or do whatever we have to do at that point.

But once it goes into Federal forfeiture, I don't think there is any way a local can get anything back out of it at that point.

Mr. LEWIS. Let me rephrase my question and say how many are not getting their fair share of seized equipment? OK. How many feel that the length of time between when you seize the equipment and the actual equipment is in your possession, how many of you feel that that time is adequate?

Mr. HOLT. I don't think we all feel it is adequate. Even in our State courts, it takes so long to get on the docket, to get to court with the thing, it is deteriorating the whole time we have it seized.

I am sure the Federals have the same problem as we have locally. But this is the court system. It has nothing to do with the cooperation between agencies.

It is just it takes that long to get it through the courts.

Mr. GILMAN. Do any of you run into problems with regard to forfeiture of funds where the Federal agencies may come in and contend because it is part of an international problems that it should belong to the Federal Government? Is there any problem? Have any of you run into that problem at all?

Apparently not.

Is there some further concern about this?

Apparently, there is a basis, from what our DEA is telling us and Customs, that these things can be worked out beforehand by a little attention to the problem before you go in.

VOICE. When the Federal officers are called out to make a board and search of a vessel—when they make the board and search, is it now a Federal prosecution or is it local—can you also work with the local agency.

Mr. BATTARD. It depends on the amount. If there is contraband, we would probably prosecute that.

Mr. ROSENBLATT. William Rosenblatt, Customs. In conjunction with the example given just a few minutes ago, I would encourage all the local and county and State agencies to get together with Customs or DEA, so we can present the matter as best we know it at that particular moment to the U.S. attorney.

If you worked a long time on a case, I cannot see where the whole matter could not be flipped over for State prosecution. It is when you get that 11th hour and 59 minutes and all that confusion, who is going to take it. So my suggestion is, get together with us or DEA, we can get together with the U.S. attorney.

If there is a problem, get the U.S. attorney, State attorney together, and in a matter of an hour or two get results.

Mr. GILMAN. Admiral Thompson, what about Coast Guard seizures?

Admiral THOMPSON. The same thing applies. If we are working with another jurisdiction—we would like to set the rules before we make the seizure.

But we can detain it, as Mr. Bettard said, and then work out the transfer later. We work that through the U.S. Attorney.

Mr. GILMAN. I hope that this clarifies some of that problem. I heard quite a bit of that discussed today, both in the session and during lunch hour. I would hope that this resolves some of those problems out there about a sharing of any of the assets.

Mr. Edwards.

Mr. EDWARDS. I feel like the good news/bad news. I think we could not add anything as far as the department in terms of what

has been said—in the area of the enforcement agencies involved in these kinds of investigations. There is one area, though, that you can help us, and I think it has been brought to the attention on several occasions, and I refer back to testimony before the committee in October.

IRS referrals by policy does not allow the IRS to recoup or let a local or State agency recoup any investigative resources expended when the referral goes to IRS. In many instances, an agency will refer a case to IRS in which they will recoup literally millions of dollars.

Commissioner Dempsy referred this to the IRS administrative people, and it is a policy decision in Washington that says that they cannot reimburse local or State agencies for referrals.

A private citizen they can reimburse, and pay them a percentage. The question that we raised, and the thing that we want to bring to your attention today is that there has been in effect for some time a policy that will not allow for agencies to be reimbursed for their investigative efforts that have been referred to IRS.

That is a concern. That is a Federal agency that probably—that that issue could be given some attention, and you could help us in that area. And I think we should bring that up.

Mr. GILMAN. Just to reimburse them for the investigative expense.

Mr. EDWARDS. Yes. A lot of times we will be working a case in a certain direction, money laundering information becomes available. We refer it to IRS. There is no way that IRS can share the information back to us what they are doing.

However, there should be at the culmination of that investigation the opportunity for the State or the local to recoup some of their expenditure. And I think it is worth bringing up to your attention.

Mr. GILMAN. Sounds like a reasonable request. Of course, we all know how difficult it is to work with that agency.

We will take note of that.

Mr. HOPTON of Highlands County. We may be putting the cart before the horse. We would welcome joint seizures with any agency. I think the problem goes back to what we discussed this morning. We need some help and some cooperation for that to happen.

I think the Federal people need to be closer in touch with some of the agencies, particularly ours, for that cooperation to exist, and for seizures to be made jointly or however. I think we can work that out—as long as we can start communicating and working together, I think we can work the problems out. At least the avenues exist for that to happen.

Mr. GILMAN. Good statement, Bob. I think you are right on point.

Lieutentant Murphy.

Mr. MURPHY of Martin County. I have one I don't think was addressed yet. But I think it was brought up over here. And this is where the problem comes in on seizures at the 11th hour you are talking about, where you have a Customs agent and a local officer there and a seizure comes up, and you, as a local, have been working that case, but you need a little more probable cause.

You can call a Customs officer, and he can come out. He has more authority than I do as a local. But all of a sudden this becomes a customs seizure. I am seizing this in the name of the U.S. Government, U.S. Customs.

Now, what happens at the 11th hour?

Mr. ROSENBLATT. If it is a small quantity under the U.S. attorney threshold for accepting prosecutions, there is no problem.

Mr. MURPHY. What if it is a large quantity, and I have a lot of people involved and a lot of man-hours.

Mr. ROSENBLATT. We are required to contact the DEA, Florida joint task group, we then contact the IRS attorney's office. It has been my experience in the recent past that if you put a lot of man-hours on it, and there is no interest with respect to the subjects that you are working on, DEA, it is not working an active case, we are, invariably it will go over there to you.

Mr. MURPHY. I have no problem with the local DEA because we work with them. If you turn the case over to them. Say you don't. I know of a case where an aircraft came in, you guys lost the aircraft, we found it on the airstrip, we notified you guys, you guys come back an hour and a half later, they are going to fly the plane out, I refuse to let them fly it out.

Mr. ROSENBLATT. How long ago was that?

Mr. MURPHY. A year and a half ago. This could be passed on to your local, you guys in the field. I agree we can work out a solution.

But this is at night, 2 o'clock in the morning. Your guy wants to get credit. I am looking forward to working in the county, so I don't want to see it moved out.

If they could get in contact with their supervisor some time that night and work out a solution among the supervisors, we could come to a solution.

Mr. ROSENBLATT. I agree with you. That has changed. I am talking about the last 9 months.

Mr. MURPHY. There was a problem not long ago. Again, I think that was the men in the field. I had one of my men that called me and said I have a boat here I pulled off the sandbar. Harbor control also comes under my division.

I am doing a safety inspection, which I do safety inspections. That is part of my probable cause. He says there is a U.S. Customs officer at the dock; is it all right if he goes onboard. I said, fine, I have no problem with that.

My officer called me back later and says that guy just seized it for a liquor violation, he says it belongs to U.S. Customs. I said would he wait until I get there. When I got there the customs officer is standing outside with a U.S. Customs jacket on.

He advised me you cannot get on the boat. I said I can't what? He said, you cannot come onboard this boat. Then he proceeded to tell me he has 8 years experience, a U.S. Customs officer, and he is sure he knows more than me.

So we got into a contest. I asked my men to leave the boat and turn it over to Customs, because it was only a liquor violation. I think stuff like that is uncalled for.

Mr. GILMAN. I think what we are all talking about is cooperation. It sounds like there is enough authority up at the top to work

out these kinds of favorable arrangements so there will be a sharing.

I hope the same thing will apply to credit for arrests so we are not one agency trying to scoop the other and trying to all work together to accomplish the same purpose. I think we have said about enough on that issue.

I hope it is finding its way home to where it counts. Now, let's take a look at commitment of resources—direct financial assistance, equipment, compensation for overtime, use of the forfeited assets, wiretaps, et cetera.

What about the shared resources in these areas? Could we have some comment with regard to that aspect? Are we getting a sharing of those kinds of resources?

Anyone want to comment on that? Any problems you may have in those areas? That is issue B, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. I guess we are getting a fair share.

I don't see any concerns out there. Anyone want to take a crack at that, any of you police chiefs or sheriffs have some problem in that area?

Use of equipment. I guess you are all doing pretty well on equipment these days, with all the seizure and the conversion of that into the kind of specialized equipment you need.

How about the wiretaps, electronic surveillance and other types of technical assistance? Are you getting all the kinds of help you need in that direction?

Apparently nobody needs any help and we are in good shape in shared resources. Is that what I am hearing?

Mr. HOLT of Martin County. I hate to keep getting up here. I cannot have these things pass, where I have problems. It seems like I am hogging the microphone all the time. I don't mean to be doing that.

We all know in law enforcement a wiretap or surveillance takes a lot of man-hours. It is very hard for a local to get a wiretap in the State of Florida.

It might be easier down in south Florida than here. But it is almost impossible. The Feds do, I understand, use quite a bit of this type of surveillance. A lot of times it will reach into a local area.

Of course, it is very seldom that we get that much intelligence on what a wiretap brings. And I can understand, because a wiretap is a very sensitive field to be in to start with. I can understand that.

I think if we had some better equipment in these fields, and maybe you gentlemen could look at some of the laws concerning this—I know that we are all greatly concerned these days with the individual freedoms act that protects us all from eavesdropping and all this stuff.

But it is a great difficulty anymore to surveil in this type manner. As far as the manpower for surveillance of a particular group that we got working in an area, the Federals in our area do not have the manpower to assist us.

I don't have the manpower to set up surveillance 24 hours a day for a period of time. Yes, it is a problem. I think if some of these other gentlemen would just step forward and comment on it, we will find out we do have a problem with manpower.

Thank you.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Edwards, on the State level, what about answering the need for some assistance with regard to wiretap surveillance in their own regions. Does the State provide any assistance in that direction?

Mr. NURSEY. The State does provide assistance to local agencies in this regard. In many instances I would think that the State would probably be even more appropriate than the Federal Government for doing this. All it would generally take would be a call from the sheriff's department, police department, to our local officer at Tallahassee.

There is one provision. We do have limited numbers of pieces of electronic surveillance equipment and limited numbers of agents to help sit on the equipment if that is needed as well as equipment.

But within the confines of the budget we can give such assistance.

Mr. GILMAN. Are you fellows all hearing that? They can come to your department if you need some electronic surveillance assistance.

Mr. NURSEY. Yes. Within the confines of available equipment and resources.

Mr. HOLT of Martin County. He throws that clause in there, Mr. Congressman.

Mr. NURSEY. We have to throw that clause in there.

Mr. GILMAN. Any other questions?

Mr. LEWIS. As I mentioned earlier, Mr. Gilman, the problems I have heard from a lot of local law enforcement officers, they cannot even talk to the Feds when they have a sting operation or when they have a bust because of the difference in frequencies and the frequencies are not available.

I would like to ask you how many people have this problem as far as radio frequency communications back and forth with the Feds and the locals?

There is a considerable number. How can you work in unison if you have this problem? I recognize that you have a problem with your adversaries picking up the frequencies and things like that. But how can you communicate?

I don't see how you can work together on any large bust and cover the other guy's flank if you cannot communicate and you are spread out in the field—that somebody can get shot and you would never know it.

Would somebody like to respond on that?

Or what you think can be done in order to correct the problem?

In other words, a lot of you don't have the frequencies and you cannot communicate with the Feds. Do you think there should be a statewide frequency you can use, or a frequency that can be used, more frequencies available, or separate frequencies set aside for communications between the Feds and local officers?

Somebody like to comment on that?

Mr. LINDQUIST. I think basically we have such a wide variety of agencies and communications systems in here, if you designated a particular frequency, that means another radio that we have to carry along with us when we are working with one particular agency or another.

We would swap people, and people have radios for that particular jurisdiction. That is the best way we have found and the only way I know of now to communicate back and forth.

There are some newer radio communications systems out that you can program in specific frequencies and radio bands. That is the only other thing I am aware of now.

And the price of those is fairly high. But I don't know of anything else to solve the problem.

Mr. LEWIS. Yes. Mr. Walker.

Mr. WALKER. Frank Walker. Just a comment toward all the five items I see here. Take, for instance, recently we started a joint operation with the State attorney's office and the sheriff's office in Palm Beach County. Just looking at these items, long before we need to entertain a Federal level, most of these questions are answered or items are supplied at that level.

When I canvassed my officers that work narcotics, I found out that to them the joint task force was virtually nonexistent. We had no contact with the joint task force whatsoever.

Most operations are done in conjunction with the State and the sheriff's office. For me to really answer appropriately, all I can say is at this level, the operation we have conducted in the past, we have never had to approach the State.

And I am not quite sure under what guidelines or what operations we can approach the State—I mean the Feds—concerning joint-type operations.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Mr. Walker.

Jim, you were going to mention something on the radio frequencies. I have had a lot of complaints on this from local law enforcement. I am just amazed you don't have any comments on it.

Mr. NURSEY. In the northern district of Florida, the U.S. attorney has recognized this. About 1 month ago he had a meeting of representative agencies throughout the northern district. It was the first meeting, and the second meeting is to be in June.

In that first meeting the problem was identified and a number of suggestions were made. I think what it comes down to is there is going to have to be either district-wide or statewide planning in this regard and ultimately money is going to be the big issue.

If you gentlemen would be prepared to have a rebirth of LEAA through which such things as radio equipment for multiagency use rather than SWAT teams could be paid for, I think that might be a good solution to the problem.

I think this is one of the positive things that the LECCs could do. But it is going to take some money.

Mr. LEWIS. Now that you mention LECC, I would like to ask Admiral Thompson, if I could, on testimony we had before our committee, our Government Operations Committee in Washington, we found that the LECC in south Florida has yet to meet or set up a subcommittee on narcotics.

Are you aware of this?

Admiral THOMPSON. I don't think that is an accurate statement. I can recall, and I think some of my colleagues on the Federal level can recall going to a meeting that Stanley Marcus had, probably 1½ years ago, where local jurisdictions and State people were invited down to Rickel Point Holiday Inn, I believe it was.

We have had subsequent meetings. They may not be officially entitled LECC meetings, but that is what they are. In the middle district, I send representatives to the middle district meetings that Bob Merckle holds with some regularity, the northern district of Florida.

The next meeting is in Gainesville on June 5. I hope to be in attendance there. I have made them all the way up through Virginia.

Mr. LEWIS. You say south Florida does have a LECC narcotics subcommittee and it does meet?

Admiral THOMPSON. I am not sure about a narcotics subcommittee.

Mr. LEWIS. They have not met, unless the subcommittee——

Admiral THOMPSON. I am not sure about the subcommittee. I know the LECC does meet. The prime subject is narcotics. But I cannot tell you if they have had a meeting.

Mr. LEWIS. All right. Thank you.

Mr. GILMAN. To get back to Sargeant Walker's request—Chief Walker, you have raised the issue, how to go about getting some of this help. I would suggest probably the best place to start is to consult with some of the Federal agencies and see what you can work out with them on some of the sharing.

From what we have heard, there seems to be a lot of cooperation here. If you are meeting resistance, we would like to know about it.

Have you tried to share some of those requests with the Federal agency?

Chief WALKER. Understand now, in the short period of time, I am talking about 5 months, that I have been here, I have not seen a reason for my department to contact the Federal authorities at the level of the joint task force.

Not to say that that won't occur. I would just like to know so I could go back to my people and say, OK, under these type operations, this is when you should get in touch with joint task force.

Mr. GILMAN. All right. Can I ask a couple of our people to respond to Chief Walker?

Sam, would you want to respond to that—Bob? When should he contact you, under what sort of circumstances would there be some ability to share?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Yes. We would hope he would contact us on any type of interstate or international case of substance. Further than that, if he needs specific assistance on an investigation which he has himself, we would hope he would call us. The best way for him to do that is for him to call West Palm Beach resident office of DEA.

He also has the opportunity to call the West Palm Beach office of the FBI. And he would have a choice, if it is an interdiction type of matter, to either call the Coast Guard, if it is a boat type of thing, or U.S. Customs.

Mr. GILMAN. Bob, would you want to comment?

Mr. BATTARD. Exactly the same.

Mr. GILMAN. All right. Should there be a more equitable sharing of the narcotics case load between Federal and State jurisdictions? Some comments with regard to that issue, on case load sharing.

How do we feel about that?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. I think we are all overwhelmed, Congressman.

Mr. GILMAN. I guess everyone agrees with that. Any suggestions about the sharing of the case load or division of authority or responsibility? Anyone want to comment on that issue?

Something from out there?

Chief MEYER. Ted Meyer, chief, Pompano. Actually, I think the answer is contained in "C" on the sheet in front of you, which refers to a joint committee or group of individuals to get together to discuss such issues.

As a matter of fact, just for evidence of that, in terms of my attending this very meeting here, I solved about four major issues in my department, not all necessarily associated with narcotics.

I think that speaks well for this sort of gathering. I appreciate the opportunity of having been here.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you. I guess Ted pointed out—I think we skipped over "C". What about setting up a pool, making resources available on an as-needed basis out of a State-local pool. That might mean throwing some of those assets into that pool.

What are your thoughts with regard to that?

I take it there isn't an overwhelming agreement in that kind of proposal. Do you want to comment on that, chief?

Is it a practical suggestion, a thing that could be workable? Is it something that could provide a real benefit to the effort?

That means tossing some of these resources into a central pool when there is a special need to be able to draw out of that pool. Yes.

Mr. HEDLUND. We have been very successful in this regard, with forfeiture and seizures. I, for one, would not be willing to throw in the gains that we have made into a pool. I could see some of the smaller agencies certainly would be in favor of that.

The resource pool, I think, would be very difficult to manage as far as who gets what and what kind of a case takes priority and what jurisdiction it is going to be worked in and things like that.

Mr. GILMAN. What about manpower assignments, of some specialists in each department being available to a joint effort?

Mr. HEDLUND. I could see the feasibility in that. I know some of the technical aspects of wiretaps and things like that require highly technical equipment and the people that know how to use it and service it and run it.

Mr. GILMAN. You can see that working out quite well on a centralized basis, making that kind of resource available to all of the agencies?

Mr. HEDLUND. Yes, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. Is there some agreement about that? Any disagreement? Discussion? Yes, Bob.

Mr. EDWARDS. Maybe this point is not appropriate. But the State has under the Florida Mutual Aid Act an inventory of all resources of equipment and manpower, specialized teams. That information has been compiled under our mutual aid bureau in Tallahassee, under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, which has a very extensive use of equipment, manpower, and it is regionalized.

We have provided that information back to the local agencies, and possibly that is why you are not getting a response. The locals have a copy.

It is a notebook copy that we update on a regular basis that provides that information, so that on an individual case-by-case need, they have the ability to contact the people in their area, based on that inventory, and provide the information. So maybe informally that is happening at this time based on what we already are providing.

Mr. GILMAN. Is that the situation? Are you finding that to be a good available resource? Or are you having any problem?

It doesn't seem to me there are any problems in that area out there.

Mr. Cusack is pointing out to me on occasion we have had requests for information on ethnic and language undercover assistance, specialists. Do you have any problem with that, of finding the appropriate undercover type of person to work in an ethnic area?

Any comments? Apparently no problem in that area.

Well, unless you can think of some of these problems before we wind up in the next few minutes, I would like to call on Joe Corless of the FBI to see if he has any comments on any of the issues we have raised.

Mr. Corless.

Mr. CORLESS. I have been listening this morning—if I was to take anything away from the conference today it is on the matter of communication. I think most of the problems that have arisen have been discussed, basically have been resolved.

There are some, I guess, going back—communication is the one thing that keeps us all going. Without it, we just cannot succeed, not only at the street level, but particularly up at the management level.

I think possibly as a result of the conference, we may make a particular point of extending the communications such as the LECC meetings. But going into possibly a board or a group of individuals that can represent the entire State, certainly I don't think we are going to accomplish anything by having representatives of every police department and sheriff's office attending a meeting.

It would be more like a convention rather than a workable committee. But I think the State and Federal Government can appoint representatives of their different agencies to handle problems that can be submitted both through the State and through the Federal representatives to be discussed and work them out at smaller committee meetings, and then the problems that cannot be resolved at those meetings can be brought up to, say, a more executive meeting, and have those issues addressed at that time.

All of us attend many meetings. Although we may not get to meet everybody, we certainly do have a great deal of our time consumed by attending State, local, and Federal meetings on law enforcement and a variety of other problems that occur in this State.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Corless, I welcome your comment. But I think even a meeting of this size certainly has been worthwhile. I would hope that we could have more regional meetings of this nature throughout not only here in the Florida region, but I hope throughout our Nation.

I think the exchange has been beneficial. I think a lot of good thoughts have been evolved here. I hope they can be put to good use.

Mr. CORLESS. I definitely agree, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. I think that comes under communication. I think we have all learned something worthwhile out of this meeting.

Any other suggestions, Mr. Corless, that you might have?

Mr. CORLESS. You did bring up the one point on communications. Again, continuing not just on meetings, but on the practicality of having a common channel on radio communications within the State, and being in law enforcement a number of years this has always been a problem.

I think it will continue to be a problem. Privacy charges are very difficult and very expensive to obtain. I don't really see it as a practical resolution of the problem.

I think the sharing of manpower with common equipment when the cases arise and joint operations, investigations between departments is probably the easiest way of resolving those issues.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Mr. GILMAN. We are also privileged to have with us our U.S. Marshal from the southern Florida region, Marshal Horgan. I would like to ask if he would like to comment on some of our problems. Marshal Horgan has the responsibility of taking care of all of the guys you bring in, trying to find a place to put them up.

Mr. HORGAN. Sometimes for years before trial.

Mr. GILMAN. How many are you holding now before trial?

Mr. HORGAN. Right now in southern Florida there are 600 prisoners awaiting trial in the Federal system.

Mr. GILMAN. How many of those are narcotic related prisoners?

Mr. HORGAN. At least 66 percent; or 400. And our fugitive situation is the same. We have over 500 fugitives escaping jurisdiction from southern Florida, and two-thirds of those cases are narcotic related.

Mr. GILMAN. Can you tell us a little bit how you get involved in the investigation of the fugitive cases, particularly narcotics?

Mr. HORGAN. We have to go back normally to the investigating agency that originally put them into Federal custody and work them up from there.

Mr. GILMAN. Are you getting good cooperation?

Mr. HORGAN. Extremely good; yes, sir.

Mr. GILMAN. There was some mention here about our narcotics people ending up in the club house at Eglin or something like that. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

Mr. HORGAN. The Marshal Service does not designate the prisons.

Mr. GILMAN. Where do they usually end up?

Mr. HORGAN. I would say most of them end up in Tallahassee, or Memphis, TN. Medical problems would go to Lexington. Very few go to Eglin Air Force Base.

Mr. GILMAN. Do you have any comments on any of the material you have today, or any thoughts to pass on to our local officials?

Mr. HORGAN. No, sir. It has been extremely enlightening to me. And it is a pleasure to be here.

Mr. GILMAN. How many people do you have in your office?

Mr. HORGAN. Thirty-two.

Mr. GILMAN. What area do you cover?

Mr. HORGAN. The 12 southern counties of Florida.

Mr. GILMAN. Why is there such a backlog of prisoners awaiting trial? Is that lack of court space, judges? What is the problem?

Mr. HORGAN. Both, Mr. Congressman.

I would say we have a definite lack of judges in southern Florida for the caseload, I believe, that has been brought before Congress.

Mr. GILMAN. What is the average length of time your prisoners stand waiting trial?

Mr. HORGAN. I would say 6 to 8 months.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Lewis.

Mr. LEWIS. No questions.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you. We appreciate your joining us today.

Are there any of our other Federal agencies who are here represented today who have not had an opportunity to make some comment and would like to make some comment?

I don't want to overlook any of our representatives of any of our other agencies. Again, I want to thank our Federal representatives for taking the time to join with our local officials as well as our local officials for making certain there was a good exchange here today.

Now, our staff here, listening to the problems today, worked up some conference recommendations. And I would like to throw these out to you to see what your thoughts are with regard to them.

We welcome your thoughts. Let's see if we can get some agreement with what we should be doing.

I will read the first one. The question is should a formal structure be considered to serve as a liaison between Federal, State, and local enforcement agencies in Florida to enhance coordination, cooperation in narcotics enforcements?

In other words, a coordinating committee, as Mr. Lewis suggested earlier. What are your thoughts about that?

Let's toss that out for some thinking.

Anyone want to comment?

Mr. LEWIS. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. GILMAN. I would be pleased to yield.

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Gilman, we talked earlier about this, somebody to meet temporarily with Admiral Thompson, and with the other Federal agencies. I did have my staff go around and ask certain people to give a good cross section of south Florida represented here. And they have agreed.

We could give you the names right now.

Lieutenant Hopton from the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, and Lieutenant Murphy from Martin County, Ted Meyer from Pompano.

There will be a designate from Sheriff Wille's department. Chief Walker from Riviera Beach. Captain Hedlund from Fort Lauderdale. Sheriff Durkis will have a designate from Hendry County. And is Roger Butler here from Cape Coral?

Would you serve on this temporary committee?

Mr. BUTLER of Lee County. Be glad to.

Mr. LEWIS. How about Gil Mugarra from Hialeah. Would you serve on this temporary committee?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Lewis, again, would you specify what the recommendation is for that committee?

Mr. LEWIS. For this committee it is to meet within the next week to 2 weeks with members from the Federal agencies, Admiral Thompson has agreed to chair initially, and to meet with Bob Edwards, Sam Billbrough, Bob Battard, and Joe Corless. So we are talking probably about 14 people. And I would also have a member of my staff there, so we can get some feedback to the committee.

This would be something to get started before we get a permanent committee.

Mr. GILMAN. That is an informal group that Mr. Lewis is suggesting. Now take a look at this conference recommendation. Do you think that should be formalized into a formal structure for better liaison between Federal, State, and local in order to beef up our coordination and cooperation? How about some discussion on this?

Would you like to see that put into formal status and meet on a regular basis and try to feed into the hopper some of the problems we have been talking about today?

Mr. MURPHY. Yes, I would like to see something like that. I think the liaison between Federal and local is what we need. I think we have misunderstandings because we don't have communications. But if the people in leadership positions could get together, I think we would solve a lot of the lower problems. I would like to see it.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you. Anyone else want to comment on this?

Any opponents to it?

Well, if there is no further discussion—any further discussion on the proposition? Admiral Thompson, how do you feel about it? Do you feel it can be a helpful tool to you?

Admiral THOMPSON. I do. I look forward to being with them. I would have to announce here I may make the first one, but I am going to be relieved as a coordinator about the 30th of the month.

Mr. GILMAN. We are sorry to hear you will be leaving. But I am sure your good work will be carried on.

Admiral THOMPSON. I pledge to get with my colleagues. I didn't have a chance to copy down the names Mr. Lewis mentioned. We will put it together and call a meeting just as soon as we can.

We will try to get some issues out. To the extent we can, we will feed the information back to people that are not in attendance.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you. All right.

Let me ask, then, can we have a show of hands—how many favor this recommendation of a formal structure?

All in favor, signify by raising your hands, if you would.

Opposed?

Looks like we will adopt that as one of our recommendations out of this conference.

A second one, from what we have been hearing today is, if this formal structure is established, should it be given top priority to examine how narcotics intelligence and information can best be shared. Are you willing to assign that kind of responsibility to it—if we establish that as a formal committee? Any discussion on that recommendation?

Some of the things we have been hearing today about the needs—we want to make sure we are off in the right direction.

Any thoughts on that issue?

Sheriff Holt, how do you feel about that?

Mr. HOLT of Martin County. Thank you for calling on me. Yes. I would like to see this. I think with the cross sections you have here, with the Federal authorities, I think it will work all the way. I think we are going to see some great benefits come from it.

I believe it is a good working solution, yes. I am all in favor of it.

Mr. GILMAN. Admiral Thompson, do you see any problem about that kind of priority being given to this committee?

Admiral THOMPSON. No, sir. None whatsoever. I think with the intelligence center we have just recently come on line with, that represents all the Federal agencies, it will work out very nicely. FDLC is in there. I think we will be able to report some progress on that.

Mr. HOLT. I didn't recall the names. Did we have a FDLE representative in that?

Mr. LEWIS. Bob Edwards.

Mr. HOLT. OK.

Mr. GILMAN. If there is no further discussion on this issue, all in favor of this recommendation, recommendation No. 2, signify in the usual manner.

Opposed.

Carried.

Now, let's get into a third recommendation. I think you have the sheets in front of you. The establishment of a Federal, State, local narcotics enforcement resource pool in south Florida, or for the entire State, to explore making resources available on an as needed and available basis.

What are your thoughts with regard to that proposal? We touched on that lightly.

Yes, sir.

Mr. HEDLUND of Broward County. I have a problem. Until the Federal people can clean up their act, they have 500 rotting boats. I know there have been hearings on this. I don't really know what the progress of those hearings have been to streamline their forfeiture procedures.

I, for one, would not be willing to participate in such a thing until that is cleaned up.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Cusack has some comment on this.

Mr. CUSACK. Unfortunately, perhaps in the drafting, by omission, it might appear to some this addresses forfeiture resources and pooling those. It really has nothing to do with that.

It means operational pooling of resources, such as vehicles, operational boats, aircraft, radio equipment, technicians, undercover agents.

Mr. HEDLUND. Count me in.

Mr. GILMAN. All right. With that clarification in mind, any further discussion?

Admiral?

Admiral THOMPSON. As somebody who might inherit the job of coordinating this resource pool, Mr. Gilman, I would like to hear a little bit more about how it would work. I have a feeling it is available now.

And that if a local or State jurisdiction wants or needs a joint operation, that there are processes in place now to call upon equipment, additional personnel.

I would like to hear a little discussion before we all vote for something that perhaps we don't know what we are voting for.

Mr. GILMAN. Sam, do you want to comment, and then Customs. Can you comment on this issue?

Mr. LEWIS. While he is going up there—the key word in here is "to be explored". It doesn't say to establish. It says "to be explored".

Mr. BILLBROUGH. To be explored, I think, I can agree with. We are a little hesitant to simply pledge any substantial number of manpower hours without guidelines and things like that, because we just don't have the manpower.

As far as technical equipment goes, I think Federal agencies can help with that. Sometimes we can help with technicians on wire installations. We may be able to help sometimes with air surveillance, depending on availability of manpower and equipment.

But we are hurting ourselves.

Mr. BATTARD. I have to agree with Sam. We really don't have the resources to put into a pool. In fact, we are probably over-committed now with the various operations that all Federal agencies have to support in south Florida—OCDE, NNBIS, Florida joint task group, Special Air Programs, et cetera. But I do agree with what was said earlier by the Admiral.

I think in terms of an operation, where the locals develop information that something is going down and they need resources to support them or back them up, we can provide that.

I think the only time we have a problem is sometimes the locals feel that what they are working on is probably the more important of a competing problem that we are addressing that same evening or that night. And that certainly is going to happen all the time.

Even within my own agency, I know of cases where a patrol officer is very angry because we don't send an airplane immediately because they are working in another part of the State. But I think in most instances we can address any request, as far as air or marine support.

We are probably the biggest requesters of support, especially in our marine program. I don't know of a marine program we have planned in the last couple of years where we have not asked the locals and the State to work with us in that operation.

Mr. GILMAN. While we have both of these gentlemen at the mikes, any comment or question you may want to address with regard to this proposal. And it is to explore it.

Mr. EDWARDS. I have to go back to something Admiral Thompson said. The State provides a lot of this. I am not so sure this is something where the Federal effort is necessarily the lead effort.

What we are trying to do at the State level is—when I mentioned the Mutual Aid Act, that does two things. One, it provides a resource inventory statewide and that is available back to each local agency.

It second offers a vehicle whereby you can enter into a mutual agreement between agencies for joint force operation and it gives the legal soundness to move forward with an investigation outside of the particular boundary of a municipality, and in some cases the county. Those vehicles are already in place.

I think the direction we are taking, we have numerous mutual aid agreements in effect statewide today. We have the inventory already in place. I would not be opposed to exploring bringing in the Federal inventory under that and include them in a mutual aid type of agreement, which we have the authority under State law to do at the present time, if that is the direction that the local agency chooses to go.

I guess what I am saying is that it is a good idea, but I am not so sure that it is not already in place and working in one direction, and if we create another mechanism it may just muddy the water at this point in time.

Mr. GILMAN. Further comments, Sheriff?

Mr. HOLT of Martin County. Yes. I would have to agree with Mr. Edwards. Although I would like to put in another plug right here, if we could get a few more DEA agents in this area of Florida, and maybe one or two more prosecuters, that I think that would increase the pool a whole lot better than having a bunch of resources available to call on on a case-by-case basis.

Although, I would like to see it explored further. I would certainly pledge some of the stuff we have gotten over the years to it if it is feasible. But I agree with Mr. Edwards.

We do need more DEA agents in this area.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Sheriff.

Further comment?

Chief WALKER of Palm Beach County. Concerning this particular matter, we all have our limitations as to what we can and cannot do. At the Federal level, of course, me coming from the FBI, I know what they can do for me. But like Customs and DEA, if I had in hand—and I will form this as a question—if I had it in hand in the way of resources what they could do, then I could look at it and say in my mind do I need to contact them.

Maybe the resources that I need can come from the State. Rather than guessing. The first people I am going to contact is either the sheriff's office of the State. But if I have something from them telling me they can provide me with thus and such, that would help resolve a lot.

Mr. GILMAN. Have at least a resource inventory.

Chief WALKER. Yes.

Mr. GILMAN. I think it sounds like it is worthy of some exploration.

Any further discussion on this issue?

Mr. MURPHY of Martin County. If he had more men in his office, could he give me two men to work in Martin County, and if you have two more men from Customs, could you put them to work in Martin County?

I know with the Sheriff's budget, I cannot put men in other counties.

If these people were from DEA and Customs and FDLE were working in the counties, rather than working out of a suboffice, I think we could get a lot more done. Is that feasible?

Mr. GILMAN. Do you want to comment on that? Sam, Bob, comment on that, personnel situation? Want to repeat that?

Did you hear the question?

Mr. BATTARD. Yes; I think what the lieutenant is referring to is primarily patrol resources from Customs. We are in the process of setting up additional stations.

But we are setting them up based on the information we have as to where the activity is. And that doesn't mean there is not activity where we are not located.

But the Keys have just overwhelmed us in the last couple of years. We have established three in that area. We only have so many resources.

And it requires acquiring a facility, setting up a structure. We found out, if we set up too small of an office, we have some real problems.

I think a minimum size office now we are trying to set up is between five and seven people, and even that is small. Our first office in Key West was seven.

I think within a week they were arresting 13 people at night. I really don't want to get into that situation. We have one or two people working alone. We are concerned as to whether they are doing the primary Customs functions which we have responsibility for or merely supporting a local agency in carrying out their functions which Customs really doesn't have authority for.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you.

Sam, do you want to make some comment on that?

Mr. BILLBROUGH. Congressman, it is a pretty tough problem. If we had sufficent additional people, I think we might be willing to probably work them out of the West Palm office, but to assign them as liaison on a county-by-county basis. We have six or eight agents in West Palm now. We have eight counties within the territory.

So we would need a minimum of at least 16, and I suppose 20, because of the varying workload. So it is possible.

But I am not sure we would be able to get those kinds of resources.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you. Any further comments on this issue?

If not, we have had this third recommendation before us now. There has been some question.

But bear in mind it is to explore what could be done for sharing some resources. So I will put the issue before you now. All in favor, in the usual manner, by a show of hands.

And opposed by a show of hands.

All right. We are carrying it. Not unanimous, but we are carrying it.

We will go to work on prodding the implementation of these three recommendations, as something formal out of this session. But I think probably the more important aspects of this is the exchange of ideas and thinking.

I think we have all gained something.

Mr. GILMAN. We do have one lay member with us today that requested an opportunity to present some information to us. I am going to ask if he could limit his remarks to about a 5-minute presentation.

Mr. Phillips, would you want to take the mike over here and identify yourself.

STATEMENT OF FRED PHILLIPS FROM MONROE COUNTY

Mr. PHILLIPS of Monroe County. Yes. My name is Fred Phillips from Monroe County.

I have been sent down here by the county commissioners, Monroe County judges, Judge Chappell, Judge Kerwin, Mr. Paine, Judge Lester, and Judge Euford. I have also contacted a Federal judge in Miami, Judge Shapiro.

I think what we really need is a Florida drug revenue commission which could take all the money and divide it up where it is necessary. We also need the Congressmen to get together and separate drug trafficking from all other felonies, to allow judges to make a better decision.

But before that, we need new guidelines for the judges. The guidelines we have today don't survive. We need to establish an incentive program for the DEA, FBI, and local law enforcement, because right now they are using a lot of overtime. And I think if we had an incentive whereby if they caught a drug dealer to give him a $10,000 bonus.

Now, that would be—I am talking about now, we are going to use the drug money to fight this drug war. There is no other way. We don't have the money. Customs keeps cutting back, DEA keeps cutting back, our Federal Government keeps taking the money away from these people, and they need it badly.

Now, if we have heavier fines and longer term sentencing by law, by you Congressman fighting for it, I think we could lick the problem.

The trouble is these law enforcement agencies fight night and day to go out and get these traffickers, and what it amounts to, they get them, it goes before the judge, or maybe not even before the judge, it goes before a bond hearing, and they are out on the streets before you can say Jack Robinson.

Now, 6 months to 1 year later the case comes to trial. DEA and FBI and the local law enforcements people cannot even remember what these guys looked like. And pretty soon all the famous drug attorneys in Miami come down there with their fine instruments and make our boys that are really fighting out there, make them look like idiots, and that is not fair.

I think, to follow this a little better—I have been listening to this very attentatively, and I think these boys are doing a hell of a job.

You see the map there, the Monroe case—I drew that, and it is a full scale map of the Keys, all 127 miles of it. We have one Custom agency just started about 6 months ago, has about four or five people in it. And Charlie Jordan, he runs it.

And so far this fiscal year he has made 475 busts. That is more than one a day. However, that does not solve the problem, because what we are after right now, and I guess most of you will agree, that these are the mules, the transporters.

We are not getting to the dealers. And they got the money. We need to concentrate on the dealers and get enough money through fines, heavy fines, of which the 4th and the 8th amendment won't allow us anyhow.

But we need to change that. Now, since this is a war, and it is a war on drugs, I think if we separate this little war of drug traffick-

ing from all other felonies, I think we will be able to deal with it a little bit better.

I think you Congressman can fight for better law enforcement as far as long-term sentencing and heavy fines.

I have a piece here just from—in fines alone, just from Dade and Monroe County and Broward County, I can return $3.295 million, in fines alone. Now, that is an estimated value that I got from the big shot attorneys and our bondsmen.

The only thing, and the only people that this would hurt are our attorneys and our bondsmen, because I have attended just about every trial and I have listened to them.

Just recently two detectives picked up a Cuban and a Mexican with 68 bales of marijuana, street value, about $2.5 million. Their bond hearing was set 6 months later. Naturally the detectives could not remember exactly whether they wore a green shirt or a blue shirt or what.

So Mr. Takef, the attorney, he maneuvered and made these two officers who spent months trying to get these guys, made them look like idiots, because, not through their fault, because it took so long before it got to trial.

It went out in the jury. But just before it went out in the jury, Judge Kerwin through plea bargaining read off a piece of paper and he said, jury, I want you to go out and deliberate and he said the charges have been reduced from 68 bales to more than 20 grams.

And I am sure all you officers know what 20 grams are. That is the equivalent of 2 dimes. That is the weight. So they each got 1 year.

They each paid Mr. Takef $75,000 to represent them. And he, after the trial was over, went out there bragging about telling these Cubans how lucky they were that they did not get 25 years.

Now, just as an example.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Phillips, if I could ask you to summarize the remainder of your testimony, and we will be pleased to put your whole statement into the record, if you care to submit. We would like you to try to wind up your statement.

Mr. PHILLIPS. I am trying. Four years of investigation and trials. I am trying to wind it up.

However, we can do another situation which we have done now and use the taxpayers' money and put up an appropriation bill which will put 12 more task forces into business, at the tune of $190 million.

Now, if you think that is fair, then that is the way we ought to go. However, I would much, much prefer to take the drug dealer's money, and I mean drug dealers, and use the drug dealer's money to put these boys away.

Actually, I would rather fine them and throw them out in the street and give them a 5-year probationary period. If they look at another drug dealer, then they get the 35-year mandatory sentence.

A mandatory sentence, according to the judge I have spoken to, could spend every single day of those days in jail. And to me, that would be one hell of a rehabilitation service.

It would do everybody a lot more good than having them be in jail right away, because then we have them tried, 9 chances out of 10, and I can point out one instance in Tampa right now—this drug dealer was picked up and he admits he is going to go to jail for 2 years.

He is worth $2.5 million. We could have fined him the $2.5 million and broke him, so he wouldn't have a dime. But at least we would have enough money to supply these fine heroic people.

Thank you.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Phillips. If you care to submit your full statement, we will make it part of the record.

We thank you for taking the time to join us today. We welcome your remarks.

Ladies and gentlemen, this brings our conference to an end. I am going to ask Mr. Lewis if he would give us some closing remarks. Then we will try to wind up.

Mr. LEWIS. Thank you, Mr. Gilman. First of all, I would like to thank all of you for coming. I know that this is important to all of us.

But also your individual positions and your own counties and cities are important. I would like to thank Admiral Thompson, Joe Corless, Bob Battard, Bob Edwards, Sam Billbrough, and all the other Federal people who have been out here today to give this exchange.

I think it was a good candid exchange. I think both sides know how the others feel now. I believe a lot is going to be resolved from this.

I would like to see all of these problems resolved certainly as rapidly as possible. And I think the first step will be to have this temporary group get together with the Federal officials and hold their first meeting.

We certainly will keep you all apprised as to that meeting and any future meetings that may come out of it.

I believe one of the first steps we have to do is get the total cohesion of our law enforcement bodies and agencies throughout the country working on this situation. Then it is up to the people to get a total commitment that they want to eliminate or certainly reduce the narcotics traffic and drug use in this country.

Because without that, I think we are all going to be spinning our wheels for many years to come. It is something you all know, that is corrupting our police forces, our political arena, desecrating our youth, breaking up families.

It is something we cannot continue to tolerate. And it is amazing to me as I go around speaking in schools and talking with youth groups and things of this nature how they are influenced by adults using some of this stuff, who feel it is nothing real bad to use.

I appreciate all of you coming out. I think we can resolve it. It has been my privilege to host this. We are going to have others throughout the country.

We are going to keep you informed as to the comments throughout the country as well. I want to thank Mr. Gilman for finding time to come to Florida to be at this hearing and also the staff of the Select Committee on Narcotics and Drug Abuse Control.

Unfortunately, our chairman could not be with us because of a meeting with Ways and Means, as well as Sam Hall, who has a broken foot and had to go back to New York yesterday. I want to thank all of you for coming out.

Mr. GILMAN. Thank you, Congressman Lewis.

And thanks to you and your staff for helping us make the arrangements for today's meeting. To all of you, our local officials, our State officials, and Federal officials, for participating.

We need this kind of input to make it all work. I think we have gained a great deal today. It has been a good exchange. I know I see some heads shaking, our Federal officials who gained something.

I know Admiral Thompson gained quite a bit out of all of this. I know our DEA and Customs folks found it to be very helpful.

I hope that you, too, have gained something about learning a little more about the process and where some of the resources are that can help you in your work. On behalf of our select committee, I again want to thank you for participating and commend you for digging into the issues.

We hope that you are not going to restrict yourselves to just a conference of this nature. Our select committee is at work throughout the year.

Please let us know either through Mr. Lewis or directly through our Washington office. Just address it to the Select Committee on Narcotics and it will find its way to us. And we will be able to address any needs you may have.

We need more exchange of this type. I think this one today has encouraged us to do a lot more, so you will be aware we are not just addressing the problems with our local officials.

We are spending a great deal of effort in the international scene, as you know, getting out to these producing countries and trying to get them to restrict their efforts.

The Hawkins-Rangel-Gilman measure is taking hold now. We are going to call on the administration to cut off economic assistance with any of those countries that do not work cooperatively with our own Nation.

We are trying to beef up the enforcement statutes so there will be some more teeth in all of it. We are still not finished with the drug czar proposal of having someone coordinate everything just as our task force people are trying to coordinate things here.

We are trying to make certain we have some rehabilitation and education programs out there to try to reduce demand.

It is not just one singular battlefront. It is not just enforcement. It is education, rehabilitation, education.

Thanks for coming.

Our committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:15 p.m., the select committee was adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.]

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. TOM LEWIS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE, MONDAY, MAY 14, 1984

On behalf of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control of the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to welcome all of you here to today's Conference on Drug Law Enforcement.

This is a landmark hearing. This is the first time the Select Committee has brought together state law enforcement, South Florida county and local law enforcement, and representatives of the South Florida Task Force to discuss openly and constructively ways to improve both communication and coordination of effort in drug interdiction.

The committee learned last October that there is a serious lack of cooperation between the feds and locals. This problem was again highlighted at a followup hearing held in Washington, D.C., last month.

As a result, the committee surveyed county and local law enforcement officials to assess their specific needs and concerns. And today, we plan to discuss these issues and then develop some positive steps for better communication and coordination between all levels of law enforcement.

There's no doubt that the flow of drugs from those countries will continue to move through Florida if the lack of interagency cooperation persists. Therefore, unless we can develop an effective strategy with your input, the fight against drug smuggling will continue to remain a series of individual battles, fought independently without the benefit of shared intelligence, shared resources and enforcement assistance.

Your participation in this conference is key.

This is your opportunity to let the committee, your colleagues, and the Task Force know your immediate concerns.

Our intent is to provide you with the proper forum for a frank discussion of these problems.

It's important to the effectiveness and success of an overall drug interdiction program in South Florida that we all develop better working relationships with each other, but this is particularly true for those of you on the front lines.

We're all on the same team, fighting the same problem.

Therefore, today, let's be fair in our assessment of the problem, and let's develop some workable recommendations to ensure South Florida's drug interdiction program is a success at all levels of law enforcement.

I regret that the chairman, Charles Rangel, who had personally requested we hold this hearing, cannot be with us today. He is a strong and effective leader of this committee, and I'm sure he will want to review closely the findings and recommendations we issue here today.

This is the model hearing for several others on the same subject to be held throughout the country.

It is also unfortunate more representatives from South Florida could not join us to hear your concerns, but we'll make the results of this conference available to them.

However, the two Members of Congress seated with me both serve on the Select Committee: Representative Sam Hall from Texas, who knows full well the problems a border state faces in the fight against drugs; and Representative Ben Gilman from New York.

Rep. Gilman was among those committee members who participated in the West Palm Beach hearing last October. He serves as the ranking Republican on the committee.

We welcome both of you gentlemen to South Florida and invite you to make some opening remarks.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN AT THE SOUTH FLORIDA LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE, HELD AT PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA, MAY 14, 1984

Thank you, Congressman Lewis for your kind words of welcome. It is a pleasure for our Committee to return to West Palm Beach with our colleague Tom Lewis to continue the efforts of the Select Committee on Narcotics toward reducing the supply of illicit narcotics entering the United States. Last October the Select Committee came to South Florida to assess the effectiveness of the vice President's Task Force which had been established in March of 1983. We learned that while the Task Force had achieved some notable accomplishments in stemming the flow of narcotics into the Southeastern United States, little communication and coordination was taking place between the Federal Task Force and State and local law enforcement officials. In my view, if the "war" on drugs is to succeed, then the three "C's"—communication, cooperation, and coordination—must be established, and they must be the cornerstone for an effective drug law enforcement program.

On April 10th of this year, the Select Committee, in following up on its 1983 hearings in California, Florida, Texas, and New York, again focused attention on the problems of Federal, State, and local law enforcement relations and what, if any,

progress had been made during the past year. We received testimony from State and local law enforcement officials whom we had spoken to in our 1983 field hearings. It was disappointing to learn that the level of communication, cooperation, and coordination had not increased in almost a year.

Today our Select Committee returns to South Florida, not to receive testimony, but to work with you . . . Florida's dedicated State and local law enforcement officials . . . to learn how communication, cooperation, and coordination can be developed and implemented. We would hope to learn not only what the Federal Task Force can do to improve upon a successful drug strategy but also what steps that can be taken by State and local law enforcement officials to achieve this goal. In this regard, communication, cooperation, and coordination represent a two-way street of mutual responsibility to arrest, prosecute, and convict the drug traffickers. This Conference is designed to allow us to talk freely and offer constructive suggestions that we can agree upon.

I am confident that our efforts will be successful, and I look forward to a most productive session. Narcotics trafficking and drug abuse continue at epidemic proportions both in the United States and abroad. Unless we work together to combat this deadly menace, our political, economic, and social institutions will continue to be undermined, and the sordid business activities of drug traffickers will continue to bring misery to citizens throughout our nation, and, indeed throughout the world.

With us today are our Chief of Staff Jack Cusack and Minority Staff Director Elliott Brown and Staff Counsel George Gilbert. Also with us today are staff representatives of Congressman Clay Shaw of Florida's 15th District, John Stunson from the District and Debbie Feldman from Washington. Moya Benoit represents Congressman Mario Biaggi from New York.

STATEMENT OF HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

Mr. Chairman, I want to commend you for convening this group of outstanding law enforcement officials in South Florida to discuss ways to improve the communication chain between the federal government and state and local agencies. With this Administration's commitment to stemming the flow of illegal drugs, Florida has finally received the attention it deserves. Because Florida is located so close to the producer countries, Floridians suffer as traffickers move illegal drugs into our state. This once tranquil vacationland for many has now become a haven for those who gain large sums of money through the insidious practice of trafficking narcotics.

The introduction of the federal government into Florida's fight against crime is certainly a positive step. The Vice President stated in remarks made soon after the announcement of the creation of the Task Force, that it was this Administration's hope that the streets and public places in this beautiful part of the country would once again be safe for its residents. In addition, he stated that this new federal presence in south Florida was put into place to assist and coordinate efforts, not to supercede the responsibilities of state and local law enforcement. However, we all understand that with every new idea and new plan come changes in the normal course of activity. New methods must be developed and communicated to all those involved. I think that this Conference will provide a terrific forum for this discussion.

Again I want to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Select Commitee on Narcotics Abuse and Control for organizing a conference of this type and for selecting South Florida as the model for the rest of the Country. As in our region, the federal government is joining hands with the local and state law enforcement agencies in a number of other areas. They will surely benefit from what we learn here today.

STATE OF FLORIDA,
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
Tallahassee, FL, May 11, 1984.

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives, Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. RANGEL: I am in recent receipt of a letter from the House of Representatives Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control to Florida Marine Patrol Captain Benny Hendrix, advising him of a conference scheduled for May 14, 1984, and soliciting his input regarding the efficacy of the South Florida Task Force on Crime. As Capt. Hendrix has retired from active duty, your request has been forwarded to this office. Regretfully, I shall be unable to attend the conference; however, I enthusiastically welcome the opportunity to provide the committee with input regarding this most important matter.

Fortunately, our experiences with the South Florida Task Force on Crime do not parallel those as expresed by West Palm Beach Police Chief John Jamason. The fluid relationship currently enjoyed by the Florida Marine Patrol in Region Four (the Florida Keys) and members of the Task Force have consistently provided us with accurate, concise, intelligence information presented in a timely manner and are continuously keeping us abreast of the latest developments, changes, and projected trends of smuggling activity within our area. They have unselfishly provided us with manpower, equipment, and investigative assistance, sometimes to the detriment of their own operations. I am continually impressed with the high degree of cooperation espoused by and constantly demonstrated by those members of the South Florida Task Force on Crime stationed in Monroe County.

I sincerely suggest to you and the members of the Select Committee that, in my experience, I cannot recall having ever received a greater degree of cooperation and direct support from any other agency, be it Federal, State, County, or Municipal.

It is not my intention to portray our interdiction and investigative efforts as being utopic in nature. Many significant problems currently exist, but fortunately they are problems which through enlightened leadership can be minimized. The single most detrimental factor encountered during our mutual efforts to combat the flow of dangerous drugs into South Florida is the lack of qualified investigative manpower. I have personally witnessed Task Force agents working in excess of thirty straight hours on as many as four separate cases at one time. This near superhuman effort is mandated by the lack of manpower resources needed to meet the demands created by the excessive number of cases generated on a near daily basis. This constant barrage of major narcotics cases taxes Task Force manpower allocations to the limits. The Florida Keys, with 300 plus miles of mostly uninhabited, unguarded coastline, has developed a historic reputation as being a potential mecca for those who might wish to import contraband in a clandestine manner. Regretfully however, only five agents have been assigned full time to the Monroe County contingent of the Task Force. Suffice it to say, no matter how diligent and well meaning their efforts, five men cannot provide the myriad of competent investigative services necessary for an area which is well documented as being the single most prolific point of entry for contraband narcotics in the United States.

Another significant problem which continuously diminishes the potental effectiveness of the Task Force is the lack of appropriate, reliable support equipment. We are all too frequently being outrunned, outmanned, and out-surveilled by the very individuals we are attempting to apprehend. The lack of sophisticated "state of the art" communications and surveillance equipment combined with a lack of such rudimentary equipment, as dependable vehicles and vessels, is well known and taken advantage of by the criminal element, which does not seem adverse to spending those dollars necessary to insure the successful culmination of their illegal activities. Clearly, the marked advantage in this "war" on crime will go to the side which is flexible enough to recognize that success is directly proportional to the amount of resources, including manpower and associated equipment available, and is then willing to expend those resources as is necessary to insure success.

I know that I speak for many within the local law enforcement community when I express my hope that the committee will recognize the past noble efforts of the members of the South Florida Task Force on Crime, and shall support their future efforts by providing the desperately needed increases in allocated manpower and equipment.

I am most appreciative of having had an opportunity to provide your committee with a basic assessment on the effectiveness of the South Florida Task Force. If I may be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

MAJ. RANDY R. WILLICH,
Chief, Region IV, Florida Marine Patrol.

LIST OF ATTENDEES FOR SOUTH FLORIDA LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONFERENCE, PALM BEACH GARDENS; MAY 14, 1984

BROWARD COUNTY

Deputy Dennis Gavalier, Broward County Sheriff's Department.
Capt. Eric Hedlund,[1] Fort Lauderdale Police Department.
Chief Ted Meyer,[1] Pompano Beach Police Department.
Sgt. Barry S. Lindquist, Pompano Beach Police Department.
Chief William J. Neal, Deerfield Beach Police Department.

Capt. R. Guiffrida, Deerfield Beach Police Department.
Lt. Dan Cummings, Deerfield Beach Police Department.
Sgt. Gary Null, Deerfield Beach Police Department.
Sgt. Brace Rohrer, Lighthouse Point Police Department.
Det. H. A. Mueller, Hacienda Village Police Department.
D. Ridenour, Wilton Manors Police Department.
Lt. Richard Rossman, Florida Highway Patrol-Fort Lauderdale.

DADE COUNTY

Lt. Bob Lancaster, Hialeah Police Department.
Det. Gil Mugarra,[1] Hialeah Police Department.
Corporal Paul Danahy, Bay Harbor Island Police Department.

HENDRY COUNTY

Sheriff Robert Durkis,[1] Hendry County Sheriff.
Lt. Hugh Smith, Hendry County Sheriff's Department.

HIGHLANDS COUNTY

Lt. Robert F. Hopton, Jr.,[1] Highlands County Sheriff's Department.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

R. E. Tomlinson, Vero Beach Police Department.

LEE COUNTY

Capt. Roger Butler,[1] Cape Coral Police Department.
Jay Murphy, Cape Coral Police Department.
Capt./Asst. Chief Gary R. Grosser, Lee County Airports Police Department.
Daniel W. Sizemore,[1] Lee County Airports Police Department.

MARTIN COUNTY

Sheriff Jim Holt, Martin County Sheriff.
Lt. John Murphy,[1] Martin County Sheriff's Department.
Sgt. Lou Savini, Sewall's Point Police Department.

OKEECHOBEE COUNTY

Lt. Rehmund P. Farrenkopf, Okeechobee Police Department.
Sgt. Dexel Brock, Okeechobee Police Department.

PALM BEACH COUNTY

Sheriff Richard Wille, [1] Palm Beach County Sheriff.
Capt. James M. Gabbard, West Palm Beach Police Department.
Capt. Ed Clark, Palm Beach Gardens Police Department.
Depty Sgt. Ronald G. Toles, North Palm Beach-Public Safety Department.
Chief Frank Walker III,[1] Riviera Beach Police Department.
Lt. Ed Humphrey, Jupiter Police Department.
Chief Carmen Salvatore III, Pahokee Police Department.
Capt. Jerry Rogers, Florida Marine Patrol-Jupiter.
Capt. Edgar R. Peterson, Florida Highway Patrol-Lantana.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

Denny Holerger, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.
Mike Monahan, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.
Depty. Chief Ronnie Parker, Fort Pierce Police Department.
Det. Kevin Burban, Fort Pierce Police Department.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Admiral Donald C. Thompson,[1] Coordinator, SE NNBIS Region, U.S. Coast Guard.
Wade Mitchell, Congressional Liaison, U.S. Coast Guard.
Robert Battard,[1] Regional Commissioner, U.S. Customs, Miami.
William Rosenblatt, Area Special Agent-in-Charge for South Florida, U.S. Customs, Miami.

Vito (Vic) Basile, Port Director, U.S. Customs, West Palm Beach.
Sam Billbrough, [1] Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, Miami Division.
Vincent J. Mazzilli, Resident Agent-in-Charge, DEA. West Palm Beach.
Greg Kenaston, Congressional Affairs Staff Assistant, DEA.
Joseph V. Corless, [1] Special Agent-in-Charge, FBI, Miami Field Office.
William E. Perry, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge, FBI, Miami.
W. Dennis Aiken, Sr. Supervisory Resident Agent, FBI, West Palm Beach.

STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Robert L. Edwards, [1] Director, Division of Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Department of Law Enforcement.
James P. Nursey, Director, Division of Criminal Investigation, Department of Law Enforcement.

MEMBERS ASKED TO SERVE ON THE AD HOC DRUG AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Admiral Donald C. Thompson, Coordinator, SE NNBIS Region, c/o Commander (b) 7th Coast Guard District, Federal Building, 51 S.W. First Avenue, Miami, FL 33130 (305) 350-5654.
Mr. Sam Billbrough, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, 8400 N.E. 53rd Street, Miami, FL, (305) 591-4800.
Mr. Robert Battard, Regional Commissioner, U.S. Customs Service, 99 S.E. Fifth Street, Miami, FL 33131, (305) 350-5952.
Mr. Joseph V. Corless, Special Agent-in-Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miami Field Office, 3801 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33137, (305) 575-3333.
Mr. Robert L. Edwards, Director, Division of Local Law Enforcement Assistance, Department of Law Enforcement, Post Office Box 1489, Tallahassee, FL 32302, (904) 488-3234.
The Honorable Richard Wille, Sheriff of Palm Beach County, 3228 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL, (305) 837-2706.
The Honorable Robert Durkis or his designate, Sheriff of Hendry County, Post Office Box 577, LaBelle, FL 33935 (813) 675-5293.
Lt. John Murphy, Officer-in-Charge of Narcotics and Vice and Harbor Patrol, Martin County Sheriff's Department, 100 East Ocean Boulevard, Stuart, FL 33494, (305) 283-1300.
Lt. Robert F. Hopton, Jr., Chief Investigator, Highlands County Sheriff's Department, 434 Fernleaf Avenue, Sebring, FL 33870, (813) 385-5111.
Chief Frank M. Walker, III, Riviera Beach Police Department, Post Office Drawer 10682, Riviera Beach, FL 33404, (305) 845-4127.
Chief Ted Meyer, Pompano Beach Police Department, 155 South Flagler Avenue, Pompano Beach, FL 33360, (305) 786-4050.
Captain Roger Butler, Captain Of Investigations, Cape Coral Police Department, Post Office Box 900, Cape Coral, FL 33910, (813) 574-3311, ext. 430.
Captain Eric Hedlund, Commander, Organized Crime Division, Fort Lauderdale Police Department, 1300 West Broward Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312, (305) 761-2314.
Captain/Assistant Chief Gary R. Grosser, Lee County Airports Police Department, Southwest Florida Regional Airport, 16000 Chamberlin Parkway, S.E., Fort Myers, FL 33908, (813) 768-1000.
Detective Gil Mugarra, Hialeah Police Department, 501 Palm Avenue, Hialeah, FL 33010, (305) 883-5900 or 883-5960.
Mr. David Goodlett, District Representative for Congressman Tom Lewis, 2700 PGA Boulevard, Suite #1, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410, (305) 627-6192.

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION 1

1. A formal structure should be considered to serve as a liaison between Federal/State and local enforcement agencies in Florida to enhance coordination and cooperation in narcotics enforcement (e.g. a coordinating committee to identify and solve problems).

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[1] Indicates those who have been asked to serve on the Ad Hoc Drug and Law Enforcement Liaison Committee.

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION 2

2. If a formal structure, as referred to in recommendation 1, is established, it should give top priority to examining how narcotics intelligence and information can be best shared between Federal/State and local enforcement agencies.

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATION 3

3. The establishment of a Federal/State and local narcotics enforcement resource pool in south Florida or for the entire State should be explored to make resources available on an "as needed, and available" basis local enforcement agencies.

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